

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on
Wednesday, 10 June 2020, commencing 9.30 am via Zoom

Chair - Ms Kath Haines

AWTTC

Voting members

Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Dr Richard Brown	General Practitioner, Hywel Dda
Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor, Cardiff and Vale
Mr Mike Curson	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mr Ross Davies	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Mrs Sian Evans	Consultant in Public Health, PHW
Mr Aled Falvey	Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Powys
Dr Lynette James	All Wales Consultant Pharmacist – Acute Care & Medication Safety
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI Representative
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan
Mr Sudhir Sehrawat	Community Pharmacist
Dr Anders Skarsten	Consultant, Powys
Mr Neil Thomas	Nurse Representative

In attendance (non-voting)

Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Ms Anne Coles	AWTTC
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC
Dr Paul Deslandes	AWTTC
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers
Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Mrs Rachel Jonas	AWTTC
Ms Miranda Morton	Welsh Government
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme
HEIW	Health Education and Improvement Wales
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NOAC	Non-Vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
PHW	Public Health Wales

1.0 Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and informed members that unfortunately due to illness Dr Laurence Grey was unable to attend his first meeting as Chair. Zoom controls for the meeting were explained. It was noted that should the Zoom connection present a problem for the Chair, Dr Paul Deslandes would take over as Vice Chair of the meeting.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Mr Dylan Jones
Dr Sally Lewis

Community Pharmacist, Powys
National Clinical Lead for Value-Based and
Prudent Healthcare, Aneurin Bevan

3.0 Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement

The Chair asked members to declare any interests relevant to the meeting. No declarations of interest pertinent to the agenda were declared.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair informed members that Rosemary Allgeier had now been approved as Deputy AWPAG member for Public Health Wales. It was noted that nominations had been received for Pharmacy and Deputy Pharmacy members for Cwm Taf Morgannwg, and for Pharmacy member for Swansea Bay and that these memberships were now in progress.

Members were reminded that there are still currently vacancies for doctors for Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards. Should further information regarding these nominations be required members were asked to contact Anne Coles.

5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – 10 March 2020

Minutes for the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and agreed.

Sue Knights raised a query in respect of item 9.2 All Wales Management of Acute COPD Exacerbation Guidelines whereby Simon Barry had agreed at the March meeting to withdraw the guidance currently circulating in GP practices across Wales. The Chair explained that this had been included as a verbal confirmation from Dr Barry within the text of the minutes of the meeting and was not an action point from the meeting.

Matters arising

Low Value for Prescribing

Members were reminded that this collaborative work with AWTTC was presented by Professor Deborah Fitzsimmons and Associate Professor Pippa Anderson from the Swansea Centre for Health Economics, Swansea University and Professor Dyfrig Hughes, from the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation, Bangor University. The Chair informed the group that no comments had been received from members. A meeting is due to be held on the 15th June 2020 with the project team to discuss the next steps required. When the final report is received it will then come to AWPAG once more prior to consultation and then on to AWMSG.

All Wales Prescribing Guidelines for Asthma, All Wales Secondary Care Community Acquired Pneumonia Guideline, All Wales Management of Acute COPD Guideline and Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2020-2021

Members were informed that all of the above documents were on the agenda for AWMSG on the 16th June 2020.

All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation

The Chair informed members that this document, following sign-off from the AWPAG Chair at the March meeting, was approved by the Chair of AWMSG and uploaded to the AWTTC website. This document will be presented to AWMSG at the meeting on the 16th June 2020 for information.

Acknowledgement process

The All Wales Thromboprophylaxis Policy had been brought to AWTTC by the Venous Thrombosis Specialist Group in Cardiff and Vale. Following a request for further information, Marilyn Rees was sorry that this document hadn't currently been accepted to go through the Acknowledgement Process. However the group will continue with the policy and revisit ratification in the future.

6.0 Feedback from AWMSG

Members were informed that no AWMSG meetings had been held since February 2020. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th June 2020.

7.0 Best Practice Day

The Chair informed members that the Best Practice Day scheduled for the 7th July 2020 had been cancelled due to the current circumstances and that preparations were now under discussion for the Best Practice Day 2021.

8.0 Documents for discussion

8.1 National Prescribing Indicators 2021-2022

Claire Thomas presented the SBAR for the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2021-2022. Members were informed that the annual process for review and update of the NPIs had not been able to commence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was therefore proposed that the current NPIs roll over to 2021-2022; members were in agreement. Clare Clement enquired as to whether health board NPI antibiotic targets would be reconsidered given the current circumstances, as this was being reviewed within Cardiff and Vale UHB. The Chair asked for the proposed adjustment to be shared. Discussion followed and it was felt that reviewing NPIs on a 2-yearly basis should be considered and the process for NPI development be reviewed as per the SBAR. Claire Thomas asked members to volunteer if they wished to be part of a review group to look at the NPI development process.

Action: Members to email AWTTC if they wish to join NPI process review group
Action: Clare Clement to share Cardiff and Vale UHB antibiotic NPI target adjustment

8.2 Shared Care – RMO Consideration

The Chair informed members that the draft document presented had been developed by an English Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMO). It was suggested that it could be used as the basis for a new Welsh shared care template document, which could also incorporate the Shared Care Principles developed by AWPAG in 2018 and consider the current AWMSG endorsed Shared Care template for Wales.

Members agreed that the RMO guidance, with some amendments, would be of use. Notably there was no reference to tertiary care or near patient testing, both of which should be included. It was agreed that the best practice and principles document, RMO guidance, and current AWMSG guidance be combined to produce one shared care resource for Wales.

Action: Document to be drafted for review by AWPAG in September.

8.3 Prescribing Dilemmas

Dr Paul Deslandes and Dr Robert Bracchi presented the Prescribing Dilemmas document. Dr Deslandes informed members that this document had been picked up as part of the review process and updated members on the changes made from the April 2015 version. Dr Deslandes invited members' comments and informed the group that the next stage for this review would be the document being sent out for consultation.

Dr Bracchi highlighted that this was the 3rd iteration of the document the first being issued in 2011, then an updated document being issued in 2015 as a guide for prescribers on prescribing issues.

Discussion followed. Dr Becky McGee highlighted section 4.1 and the transition of patients from a private consultant to the GP. Dr McGee was happy to help with the wording of this section.

The issue of vaccinations was raised and following brief discussion Sian Evans agreed to share the text regarding vaccinations in the document with Public Health Wales colleagues for their comments.

The issue of patients not attending for review was raised in relation to medicines requiring ongoing monitoring, such as sodium valproate. A section will be added to the document to address this.

Action: Sian Evans to speak with Public Health Wales colleagues regarding vaccination section of document.

Action: Members to forward comments to Dr Bracchi.

Anders Skarsten joined the meeting.

9.0 Verbal updates

9.1 SPIRA Steering Committee

Claire Thomas updated members on the SPIRA Steering Committee. No meetings had been held since the last meeting of AWPAG in March. The meeting scheduled for June had been cancelled, however the next meeting is due to take place in September. Claire Thomas welcomed any comments on SPIRA from members.

9.2 WHEPPMA

Richard Boldero informed members that no meeting of WHEPPMA has been held since the AWPAG meeting in March. James Goddard, the Hospital e-Prescribing Lead has provided updates on the work by email. They are currently exploring different suggested requirements of the prescribing system and what priority the Clinical Reference Group feel they should have. These will be collated and finalised for informing on the chosen prescribing system. It is anticipated that progress made can be reported at the next meeting of AWPAG.

9.3 Standardising the requirements for multiple eMAR platforms approved for use in Wales

The Chair informed members that this project had now been paused. Emyr Jones who is leading on the project will bring the document back to AWPAG at some point in the near future.

9.4 National Standards for Medication Review

Claire Thomas informed the group that a patient information leaflet had now been added to the document and that it is anticipated that it will go out for consultation shortly.

Action: Document to be sent out for consultation

10.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Peer Group

Bethan Tranter was not in attendance at the meeting so no feedback was available. The Chair informed members that the Chief Pharmacists Peer Group had been meeting twice a week during the COVID-19 pandemic and that they had liaised with AWTTTC on certain topics.

The Chair also gave a brief update on the work AWTTTC has undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

13.0 Feedback from health boards

No members had any feedback from their health boards to report.

The Chair informed members that AWTTTC, although still undertaking the COVID-19 work, is working towards 'business as usual' with AWMSG, NMG, AWPAG and One Wales meetings going ahead virtually for the time being.

14.0 Any other business

Mike Curson informed members that Aneurin Bevan UHB were starting to look at SGLT2 inhibitors and their potential positive cardiovascular effects. Mike Curson queried whether AWTTTC would be interested in looking at the available trials and agreed to email details to AWTTTC for consideration. Claire Clement informed the group that there is a Cardiff MDT group also looking into this and who may be able to provide assistance should the work be progressed by AWTTTC.

Action: Mike Curson to email Kath Haines with details

Aled Falvey queried whether there is All Wales guidance available on corticosteroid injection by physiotherapists during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists have advised against such injection due to the immunosuppressive effects and patient contact. Discussion followed regarding guidance available, patients and conditions and there appears to be variation of advice across specialist groups. The Chair noted that NICE may be looking at this further.

Action: Kath Haines to update Aled Falvey following feedback from NICE

15.0 Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 23rd September 2020