

## **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Tuesday, 10 March 2020, commencing 9.30 am at the Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff**

### **Voting members**

Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Dr Richard Brown	General Practitioner, Hywel Dda
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Swansea Bay
Mr Mike Curson	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Laurence Gray	Consultant, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI Representative
Miss Karen May	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan
Mr Sudhir Sehrawat	Community Pharmacist
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf Morgannwg

### **In attendance (non-voting)**

Miss Shaila Ahmed	AWTTC	
Ms Rosemary Allgeier	Public Health Wales	(Observing)
Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC	
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC	
Dr Katherine Chaplin	AWTTC	(Observing)
Ms Anne Coles	AWTTC	
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC	
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC	
Dr Sara Pickett	AWTTC	
Dr Carolyn Hughes	AWTTC	(Observing)
Mrs Rachel Jonas	AWTTC	(Observing)
Ms Miranda Morton	Welsh Government	
Miss Laura Phillips	AWTTC	
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 welcomed members and informed them that Rosemary Allgeier was observing the meeting and is a prospective Public Health Wales representative deputy member.

Members introduced themselves.

## 2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor, Cardiff and Vale
Mr Ross Davies	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Mrs Sian Evans	Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, PHW
Mr Aled Falvey	Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Powys
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers
Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Mr Jamie Hayes	AWTTC
Ms Lynette James	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mr Dylan Jones	Community Pharmacist, Powys
Dr Sally Lewis	National Clinical Lead for Value-Based and Prudent Healthcare, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Anders Skarsten	Consultant, Powys
Mr Neil Thomas	Nurse Representative

## 3.0 Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement

The Chair asked members to declare any interests relevant to the meeting. Sue Knights declared an interest in Item 9 of the agenda, Documents for Discussion, (Enclosures 2, 6 and 10). No other declarations of interest pertinent to the agenda were declared.

## 4.0 Chair's report

The Chair informed members that Alan Clatworthy and Bev Woods had reached the end of their membership and thanked them for their constant support over the last eight years. The Chair asked members for nominations for replacement pharmacist representatives from Swansea Bay and Cwm Taf UHBs. Alan Clatworthy suggested Darren Smith as his replacement. The Chair informed members that Dr Lisa Adams had made the decision not to renew her term of office. The Chair informed members that Lynette James membership was currently awaiting renewal. The Chair announced that this would be her final meeting and thanked members for making her Chairmanship so enjoyable. Kath Haines thanked the Chair for her support on behalf of AWTTC. The Chair announced that Professor Ceri Phillips, Chair of AWMSG, had approved the appointment of Dr Laurence Gray as the new Chair going forward, and asked members to send expressions of interest for the Vice-Chair position to Anne Coles. Kath Haines reminded members that there are still vacancies on the group for doctors to represent Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards.

**Action: AWTTC to contact Darren Smith regarding Swansea Bay representation.**

**Action: Members to send expressions of interest for the Vice-Chair post to Anne Coles**

## 5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – 4 December 2019

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

## Matters arising

*All Wales Guidance for the Health Boards/Trusts and Social Care Providers in Respect of Medicines and Care Support Workers.*

The Chair informed members that Emyr Jones is in the process of developing guidance for domiciliary care.

## **6.0 Feedback from December 2019 and February 2020 meetings for information**

- **National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021 – Analysis of Prescribing Data**  
Claire Thomas gave feedback on discussions and issues raised by AWMSG members on the analysis of prescribing data reports.
- **National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021**
- **National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021 – Supporting Information for Prescribers and Health care professionals**  
Claire Thomas informed members that following discussion AWMSG endorsed the above documents.
- **All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation**  
The paper was endorsed by AWMSG.
- **National Guiding Principles for Medicines Support in the Domiciliary Care Sector**  
Claire Thomas informed members that Emyr Jones had presented the National Guiding Principles for Medicines Support in the Domiciliary Care Sector for acknowledgement by AWMSG at the meeting in February, and this had been supported by AWMSG.

## **7.0 Low Value for Prescribing**

The Chair welcomed 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; to present the collaborative work they have been doing with AWTTTC in developing a process to assist in selecting future items for consideration within the low value for prescribing initiative.

Professor Fitzsimmons introduced the work on analysis and exploration of appropriate disinvestment of items identified as low value for prescribing. Prof Fitzsimmons gave an overview of the background to the issues with disinvestment, and the reasons why disinvestment is so important. Prof Fitzsimmons informed members that the AWMSG Strategy objective on disinvestment is due for completion in 2023, and informed members of the process undertaken in this project so far.

Professor Dyfrig Hughes presented work package 2 which involved work on liothyronine. Prof Hughes informed members of some of the background to liothyronine and why it is currently not recommended for routine prescribing in Wales. Prof Hughes explained to members the model which has been developed.

Associate Professor Pippa Anderson presented work package 3 which involved the work on lidocaine patches. Members were informed where data in the model was collated from and the working assumptions used in the model. Members were also shown information which had been collated for each health board and were informed of the next steps for the framework. Members were asked to input any comments on the project to AWTTTC for collation to the project team.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The group discussed the routes used to access these figures, the feasibility of utilising these analytical methods in future iterations, and the next steps in developing the analytical framework.

**Action: Members to send comments on the framework to AWTTTC for collating to the research team.**

**Action: Project to be taken to AWMSG in June.**

## **8.0 Best Practice Day – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Kath Haines promoted the Best Practice Day 2020 to members and asked members to inform AWTTC of any projects within their health boards, which may be suitable to showcase on the day in the form of interactive sessions. Kath Haines informed members about the “Routledge Award” which is new this year and informed members how delegates could be considered for the award by submitting posters for the day. Kath informed members about the poster walk which will showcase the top 10 posters, which will be in the running to win the award. Members were reminded that the primary theme of the day is the National Prescribing Indicators, with talks focussing on the three priority areas of Analgesics, Anticoagulants and Antimicrobials. Kath Haines asked members for ideas for the day. Bev Woods suggested that the pharmacy technicians in Cwm Taf Morgannwg may have a potential project for presentation at the event.

**Action: Bev Woods to send details of the Technicians project in Cwm Taf Morgannwg to AWTTC.**

## **9.0 Documents for discussion**

### **9.1 All Wales Prescribing Guidelines for Asthma**

The Chair welcomed Dr Katie Pink to the meeting. Dr Pink fed back on the consultation responses received. Dr Pink informed members that she was happy with the responses, and informed members about the edits that had been made to the document, following the consultation. Dr Pink asked members for any comments. The group discussed the issue of specifying brands within the guidelines. Dr Pink reminded members that industry colleagues would have seen the document during the consultation, and she received no negative feedback from them regarding the guidelines being brand specific. The Chair reminded members that this document was a guideline and not a policy, so the document was not mandatory. The group discussed the difference between the All Wales guidelines and NICE guidance, and the possibility of confusion with multiple guidelines in place. The group discussed the differences between this being a pragmatic guideline versus NICE guidelines which would include a larger focus on cost effectiveness. Dr Pink reiterated that this guideline was more closely aligned with BTS/SIGN, a guideline often preferred by practicing clinicians, and was targeted at best overall care for the individual patient. The group discussed having input at an earlier stage for future projects. Kath Haines informed members of the process for the document if it was recommended by AWPAG. Dr Pink left the room for members to vote.

Following a members vote it was agreed that the paper could proceed to AWMSG Steering Committee, prior to presentation at AWMSG for endorsement.

**Action: Paper to proceed to AWMSG Steering Committee prior to AWMSG.**

### **9.2 All Wales Management of Acute COPD Exacerbation Guideline**

The Chair welcomed Dr Simon Barry to the meeting. Dr Barry reminded members why the document was created and what the end objective was. Members were informed about the changes that had been made to the document post consultation comments. A question was raised with regard to the suggested use of doxycycline and whether the guidelines should be in alignment with the antibiotic choice of NICE, being amoxicillin. Dr Barry agreed to review the stated antibiotic choice.

Dr Barry informed members that there would be an app for patients to use to go alongside the document. The group discussed the issue of not everyone having a smart phone to access the app on the go. The group discussed how patients could interpret the document and the possibility of having a patient leaflet to aid their understanding. Dr Barry fed back comments received from patients who have been on

the pilot. Dr Barry addressed queries from members on the availability of CRP testing machines and testing strips. The inclusion of doxycycline instead of amoxicillin was also discussed. Dr Barry apologised that he had not had a chance to look at the cost effectiveness as previously promised. Dr Sara Pickett suggested writing a simple document on cost effectiveness to aid the document. The group stressed to Dr Barry that evidence of cost effectiveness would strengthen the case for endorsement of the guidelines.

On request, Dr Barry agreed to withdraw the circulating guidance from practices.

Members agreed that, with assurances of further development on the information leaflet and clarification of cost effectiveness, the paper could proceed to AWMSG Steering Committee prior to AWMSG.

**Action: Dr Simon Barry to develop patient information leaflet.**

**Action: Dr Simon Barry to review aligning antibiotic choice with that of NICE**

**Action: Dr Simon Barry to provide evidence around cost effectiveness.**

**Action: Paper to proceed to AWMSG Steering Committee prior to AWMSG.**

### **9.3 All Wales Secondary Care Community Acquired Pneumonia Guideline**

Dr Simon Barry presented the guidelines to members. Dr Barry explained the differences between the All Wales Guidelines and NICE guidance. In response to a query Dr Barry clarified the reasons for why co-amoxiclav was not included in the guidelines. The group discussed the side effects of co-trimoxazole and the need for the inclusion of some additional wording of support

**Action: Dr Simon Barry to clarify co-amoxiclav's licensed indication within the guideline**

### **9.4 Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2020-2021**

Claire Thomas presented the document to members and explained the purpose and content. Dr Rob Bracchi informed members that work was being undertaken with HEIW to develop an NPI educational module and enquired whether the links within the document could be included in the module. Claire Thomas confirmed that she would investigate with HEIW.

**Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG Steering Committee prior to AWMSG.**

### **9.5 NPI Specification**

Claire Thomas presented the document to members. Claire Thomas explained that the thresholds in the document will be added when December quarter data becomes available. The floor was opened for comments; none were raised.

**Action: Document to be finalised once threshold data is available, and uploaded onto the AWTTTC website.**

### **9.6 Local Comparators 2020-2021**

Claire Thomas presented the local comparators to members. Claire Thomas explained that data for the local comparators will be available on SPIRA for two years before being retired. Dr Becky McGee enquired as to what would happen should the local comparators begin to demonstrate a trend in the wrong direction. Claire Thomas informed members should there be a change in the data following retirement, consideration would be given to reinstating as an NPI. Members had no further comments on the document.

**Action: Document to be uploaded onto the AWTTTC website.**

### **9.7 National Minimum Standards for Medication Review**

Dr Robert Bracchi presented the National Minimum Standards for Medication Review document to members. Dr Bracchi gave a brief background of the document development and thanked those members of AWPAG who had been part of the task and finish group. Dr Bracchi informed members that pharmacists in Cwm Taf Morgannwg had audited a number of medication reviews against the standards and thanked Bev Woods for facilitating this. Dr Bracchi highlighted that the audits undertaken suggested that the standards were achievable and could be completed in around 30 minutes. The group discussed issues with the time required to complete the review. The group discussed the possibility of having a tool or checklist to aid the review that could be implemented as a template in systems such as Vision. Members agreed that the link to the decision aid was helpful. Dr Bracchi informed members of the next steps for the document.

**Action: Document to be updated with inclusion of the checklist.**

**Action: Following tweaks, document to be sent out for consultation.**

### **9.8 All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Artrial Fibrillation**

Shaila Ahmed gave members an update on the amendments made following the AWMSG meeting in February, and confirmed that all amendments had been completed. These amends were presented to AWPAG for their final approval. Sue Knights queried if this document should go back to AWMSG. The Chair clarified that AWMSG was happy for the document to be endorsed following the amendments.

**Action: Document to be uploaded onto the AWMSG website.**

## **10.0 Verbal updates**

### **10.1 SPIRA Steering Committee**

Claire Thomas updated members on the discussions at the recent SPIRA Steering Committee, namely potential new developments and health boards showcasing how they use SPIRA and SPIRA data. Clare Thomas informed members that there was potential for feedback from the group to take place during the Best Practice Day.

### **10.2 WHEPPMA**

Richard Boldero updated members on WHEPPMA. Richard Boldero informed members that AWTTTC had attended meetings where potential e-prescribing systems had been demonstrated. Members were informed that the procurement process is aiming to be in place by the end of July, however, it will not be until at least May 2022 before systems will be ready for implementation.

### **10.3 Standardising the requirements for multiple eMAR platforms approved for use in Wales**

Kath Haines informed members of a project proposal submitted by Emyr Jones. Kath Haines informed members that Emyr Jones would like AWPAG's input when developing the medicines optimisation indicators for care homes. The group queried what indicators would be used, and suggested alignment with other indicators. The group agreed that this could form part of the NPI sub-group discussions, rather than creating a new group.

**Action: Project to be discussed by AWMSG**



#### **10.4 All Wales Standards for Medicines Management**

Kath Haines informed members that Dr Lynette James would like to progress an All Wales Standard for Medicines Management via AWPAG and AWMSG and this has been supported by Professor Ceri Phillips, Chair of AWMSG. Further detail will follow at the next meeting.

#### **11.0 Acknowledgement Process – All Wales Thromboprophylaxis Policy**

The Chair reminded members of the acknowledgement process and its origin. Kath Haines gave members an insight into projects that had already gone through the process. The group queried if the document was a guideline or a policy as the wording was inconsistent throughout the document. Kath Haines informed members that the document had not gone through AWTTC formatting, as per procedure for the acknowledgement process. Members noted that this was the first they had seen of the guideline. The group also asked if an 'Equality impact assessment' had been carried out in the development of the document. The group queried if the AWMSG logo would be on the document; Claire Thomas clarified that the logo would not be on the document. The group discussed the need for a review date and contact details being on the document, and suggested these could be added to a front sheet.

**Action: Kath Haines to speak to the author and clarify if the document is a policy or a guideline and ensure consistency throughout.**

**Action: Check with author if an equality impact assessment has been undertaken**

**Action: Author to add front page with contact details and the review date.**

#### **12.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group**

Bethan Tranter had left the meeting and was unable to feedback.

#### **13.0 Feedback from health boards**

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

#### **14.0 Any other business**

##### *PRIMM Meeting feedback*

Dr Rob Bracchi gave feedback on the PRIMM meeting which he attended along with Kath Haines January 2020.

##### *All Wales Prescribing Incentive Scheme Potential – discussion*

Kath Haines gave members a background to research work that had been carried out as part of a fourth year pharmacy student project on the potential for an All Wales Prescribing Incentive Scheme. Kath Haines informed members that the research was limited in its scope and only three out of the seven health boards had been included. Members discussed the drawbacks of a national scheme and felt it was not worth progressing. The group did not believe that there would be a high uptake by the health boards, and that resources could be used better elsewhere

##### *National Prescribing Indicators 2019-2020 Analysis of Prescribing data to September 2019 - Heatmap*

The Chair presented the heatmap to members and informed members that Prof Ceri Phillips, AWMSG Chair, had contacted all health boards for their view on their own health board performance. Kath Haines informed members that there was ongoing discussion with Welsh Government on how the data should be presented.

Members had no other issues to be raised.

#### **15.0 Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 10 June 2020**