

# **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2006 COMMENCING 9.30AM IN THE BRYN HOWEL HOTEL, LLANGOLLEN**

### **Members**

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Rob Bracchi	GP South East Wales
Dr Mark Daniels	GP South West Wales
Mr William Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Kath Haines	Pharmacist South West Wales (deputy)
Mrs Katherine Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales
Mrs Nicola John (Chair)	NPHS Representative
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Dr Tessa Lewis (Vice Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Berwyn Owen	Pharmacist North Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP South West Wales (deputy)
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist South West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist South East Wales (deputy)

### **In attendance**

Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

### **Key of abbreviations**

ASPBs	Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies
AWDAC	All Wales Dietetic Advisory Committee
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
A&E	Accident & Emergency
BSC	Business Services Centre
CHCs	Community Health Councils
GP	General Practitioner
HSW	Health Solutions Wales
HoPMM	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
LHB	Local Health Board
LMCs	Local Medical Committees
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
RPSGB	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members.

**2. Apologies**

Mrs Debbie Davies (representing other professions eligible to prescribe – no deputy)  
Mrs Judith Vincent (was represented by deputy pharmacist, Mrs Kath Haines)  
Mr Ken Nazareth (was represented by deputy pharmacist, Ms Fiona Walker)  
Dr Martin Duerden (was represented by deputy GP, Dr Ashok Rayani)  
Dr Paul Buss (AWMSG link member, currently Acting AWMSG Chairman)  
Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells (Welsh Assembly Government)  
Mrs Carolyn Poulter (Welsh Assembly Government)

**3. Declarations of interest**

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general.

**4. AWPAG – Support by WMP and future meeting venues**

RL informed members that it had been necessary for WMP to withdraw their professional support to the sub-group as Welsh Assembly Government had reduced the budget for 2006/2007 significantly and, under the current service level agreement, WMP is required to provide secretariat services only. RL confirmed that the AWMSG Steering Committee had proposed that sub-groups should not rotate their quarterly meetings throughout Wales, but in an effort to reduce meeting costs should find one mutually convenient meeting venue. Members discussed a potential meeting venue in Abergavenny, as it was considered this venue is within travelling distance from all parts of Wales. The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held at The Hill Education and Conference Centre. It was reported that the AWMSG Steering Committee had discussed the need for sub-groups to work closely to the AWMSG work programme in developing and identifying key strategic issues and that WMP should concentrate on the appraisal of new high cost medicines. It was noted that AWPAG has appreciated the professional support of WMP and recognize there may be difficulties in the future where support might be unavailable.

**5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were checked for accuracy and content. Page 6 – ‘generic substitutions’ should be amended to read ‘inappropriate generics’.

**Matters arising:**

**Membership issues**

Dr Tessa Lewis nominated Dr S Jacks of The Vauxhall Practice in Chepstow to be appointed deputy GP AWPAG member. The Committee supported the nomination and asked that WMP seek the ratification of the appointment from the AWMSG Steering Committee.

**ACTION**

**WMP to take recommendation to the AWMSG Steering Committee**

RL reported that appointment of the consultant members to AWPAG had been delayed due to the review of all ASPBs.

**ACTION**

**WMP to convey the Committee's disappointment at the delay in appointing the secondary care consultant to AWPAG**

**Prescribing Strategy**

RL informed members that the four Prescribing Strategy sub-groups had been set up and inaugural meetings were underway. The Committee discussed the composition of the groups.

Quality Prescribing working group

AWPAG recommendation: there is a need for GP representation

Budget Setting working group

AWPAG recommendation: there is a need for a primary care pharmacist (HoPMM)

Support to Prescribers working group

AWPAG recommendation: there is a need to address the balance of the group

Interface Issues working group

Ms Ffion Johnstone has withdrawn and Mr John Terry will replace her.

AWPAG Recommendation: there is a need for an interface pharmacist

**ACTION**

**RL to convey the recommendations to the WMP lead**

**Clopidogrel audit**

The Chair informed members that the audit information had been posted on the AWMSG website. Members discussed future audit and computer software available to support the audit. It was agreed that members should submit template audits to Mr Stuart Evans who agreed to collate and bring back to AWPAG at a future meeting for discussion.

**ACTION**

**Members to identify and submit templates to SE for discussion at a future meeting**

**Generic substitution – legal stance**

Welsh Assembly Government has been asked to clarify the legal stance of generic substitution. Until this is confirmed, it was agreed that Generic Substitution should be removed from the AWPAG work programme.

**ACTION**

**Remove from AWPAG work programme**

**Glucose testing**

RL reported that in a conversation with Professor David Owens, Consensus Group Chairman, he had confirmed that the work is near completion and a Welsh Assembly Government consultation will follow shortly. Professor Owens confirmed that Welsh Medicines Partnership would be added to the distribution list. The group expressed disappointment at the delay in this work and a comment was made that an audit on glucose testing strips would be useful.

## **ACTION**

**WMP to circulate the WAG consultation on blood glucose testing to AWPAG members for comment**

## **Multi-compartment compliance aids (MCAs) & monitored dosage system**

RL reported that at a recent AWMSG Steering Committee meeting, Mr Paul Parker had asked that his thanks be conveyed to AWPAG for consideration of this issue. Mr Parker had commented that time had taken over events and AWPAG are no longer required to progress this issue. Members felt there was an urgent need within the Service for national guidance and clarification. The group discussed problems currently being experienced in both secondary and primary care and asked WMP to convey their strength of feeling that this issue should urgently be addressed. AWPAG members asked for clarification of Mr Parker's decision and an explanation as to how the issue is being progressed.

## **ACTION**

**AWPAG recommend that the AWMSG Steering Committee reconsider the decision**

## **Antiplatelet & statin review**

Ms Fiona Walker raised the issue that the South East Wales Cardiac Network had recently issued care pathways that were inconsistent with the AWMSG templates. Ms Walker agreed to provide WMP with the information. The Group discussed engagement with the Cardiac Networks and members commented there is a need for consistent advice throughout Wales

## **ACTION**

**AWPAG recommend that AWMSG consider engagement with the Cardiac Network to ensure consistency of advice throughout Wales**

## **Independent prescribing**

At the previous AWPAG meeting Mr Berwyn Owen had asked whether 'Independent Prescribing' could be included as an item on the agenda. Mrs Lang confirmed that the Steering Committee had considered this inappropriate as Mrs Sian Evans, Welsh Assembly Lead on Independent Prescribing, had presented a paper to AWMSG in March 2006 and, following the discussion at AWMSG, WMP had agreed to place all meeting notes and supporting documentation in relation to Independent Prescribing on the AWMSG website.

## **ACTION**

**WMP to convey to the AWMSG Steering Committee that AWPAG would welcome feedback on independent prescribing**

## **Guidelines regarding use of Fucidin**

At the previous AWPAG meeting, Dr Martin Duerden had agreed to bring a discussion paper to the next meeting. He had been unable to attend this meeting and it was hoped that a paper will be brought to the AWPAG meeting in July 2006.

## **Destruction of controlled drug waste**

Mrs Delyth Simons had raised the issue of the destruction of controlled drug waste and clarification was sought from WAG. RL reported that at the recent AWMSG Steering

Committee meeting Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells had confirmed that waste management was currently being addressed by other national organisations. It was agreed that there was a need for clarification of the destruction of controlled drug waste specifically.

#### **ACTION**

**AWPAG recommended that advice be sought from WAG in relation to the destruction of controlled drug waste**

#### **Trastuzumab (Herceptin®)**

RL confirmed that the AWMSG information note in relation to trastuzumab (Herceptin®) had been posted on the AWMSG website and is available to the Service in Wales. It was noted that the South West Cancer Network is undertaking an audit of the use of Herceptin. Members asked whether this information could be shared with AWPAG.

#### **ACTION**

**WMP to follow up**

### **6. National indicators 2007/2008**

#### **Feedback on co-proxamol:**

The Chair provided the background to the discussion paper and conveyed the comments made at the AWMSG March 2006. Following the January 2006 meeting, WMP had requested examples of good practice in relation to reducing the prescribing of co-proxamol. Mr Jonathan Simms of Torfaen LHB had provided an example and has been invited to present a paper to AWMSG in June 2006.

#### **ACTION**

**AWPAG endorse the work undertaken by Mr Sims on behalf of Torfaen LHB**

#### **Inappropriate generics:**

Mrs Delyth Simons informed the Committee that the working group convened to address the Inappropriate Generic Prescribing national indicator for 2005/2006 and led by Mrs Fiona Woods of WMP, recommended that since phenytoin and carbamazepine (and other anticonvulsants) were used for a number of non-epileptic indications, they should be removed from the basket of drugs for the indicator – reflected in National Primary Care Prescribing Indicators 2006/2007 paper presented at AWMSG in December 2005. Following further discussion, the working group recommended that although anticonvulsants are no longer included in the basket of drugs to be measured for the inappropriate generic prescribing indicator, it is recommended that patients receiving them for epileptic conditions should be maintained on a particular preparation (brand or generic) to maintain a consistent supply and retain patient confidence. Ms Fiona Walker volunteered to take the lead in convening a working group to address the basket of inappropriate generics and local comparators for 2007/2008.

#### **ACTION**

**Ms Fiona Walker to lead a working group to address the the basket of inappropriate generics and local comparators for 2007/2008**

### **Proposed new indicators**

Following a meeting of the AWPAG Indicator Working Group a draft document of recommendations for 2007/2008 were presented to members by Dr Mark Daniels. It was noted that the National Prescribing Centre are keen to endorse the use of simvastatin and NICE guidance anticipated in late 2007. It was agreed that AWPAG would recommend that a national indicator for the monitoring of simvastatin as a percentage of all statin prescribing be implemented. There was discussion over doses and targets.

The Chair confirmed the change in the wording of targets to “maintain performance levels within the lowest (or highest if appropriate) quartile or reduction towards the quartile below”.

The Committee discussed the generic prescribing target of 78%. It was agreed that 78% should remain within the text of the paper, with a note that the percentage target may be reviewed by the working group. The group discussed the need for an audit for each national indicator and Mr Stuart Evans agreed to collate audit templates and bring back to the Committee for discussion at the next AWPAG meeting in July 2006. Dr Robert Bracchi suggested that the reporting of adverse drug reactions by the submission of yellow cards be considered by the Committee and it was agreed that Dr Bracchi would produce a discussion document for the next AWPAG meeting in July.

### **ACTION**

**AWPAG to recommend to AWMSG that a national indicator for the monitoring of simvastatin as a percentage of all statin prescribing be implemented in 2007/2008, and that revised wording for targets should be used.**

**Ms Fiona Walker to take the lead in convening a working group to address the issues of inappropriate generics and local comparators**

**Dr Bracchi to prepare a discussion paper on yellow card reporting for the next meeting in July 2006**

### **7. Prescribing trends**

The Chair invited members to comment on how AWPAG could best identify key prescribing messages from the prescribing data received from Health Solutions Wales and feed back these messages to AWMSG. Members felt that AWMSG required a regular review of prescribing rather than a review of indicators and growth rates. It was agreed that, subject to approval by AWMSG, each quarter AWPAG would review 2 BNF chapters, the regions would take turns to carry out this review. The review should cover prescribing trends, concerns, issues and possibly a limited horizon scan. The areas highlighted should, subject to the approval of the AWMSG Steering Committee, form the work programme of AWPAG.

### **ACTION**

**WMP to seek agreement from the AWMSG Steering Committee**

### **8. Update on shared care – Amber drugs**

Dr Tessa Lewis presented the update paper on shared care – amber list. It was noted there was some overlap of the drugs between specialties. A comment was made that secondary care physicians are not aware of the need to send test results back to primary care for monitoring purposes. Members agreed that funding issues could not be dealt

with by AWPAG but should be addressed by LMCs, GPC Wales and Welsh Assembly Government. The Committee discussed other areas where shared care should be addressed.

Mr John Terry asked for clarification of Appendix 3 Criteria 12 – LMCs negotiate funding arrangements, and the MTC make the decision on shared care based on a body of evidence. It was agreed that the wording should be amended to “It is recommended that .....” Dr Lewis confirmed she is awaiting feedback from the LMCs.

#### **ACTION**

**TL to present a paper to AWMSG in June 2006. AWPAG recommend that the process be extended to other specialties**

**Members to provide WMP with examples of specific shared care templates for posting on the AWMSG website**

**Interface pharmacists be encouraged to liaise in the future development of shared care protocols to avoid duplication of effort**

**TL to incorporate the issues raised during the discussion into the paper for AWMSG**

**AWPAG recommend the need for the development of IT systems to support shared care arrangements.**

#### **9. Verbal update from Sip Feeds Working Group**

The Chair invited Dr Tessa Lewis to update members on the issue of sip feeds. Dr Lewis reported that following consideration of the recommendations of NHSIF and AWPAG in relation to the use of sip feeds within NHS Wales, WMP had been tasked by AWMSG to address key priorities to complement the NICE guidance that had subsequently been published. WMP had nominated Dr Lewis as WMP lead and a small working group had been convened to bring together the issues. Dr Lewis confirmed it is intended that a report will be made to AWMSG in June 2006. Members recognized the need to raise awareness and ensure that any advice reaches the relevant individuals within the Service. It was suggested that the paper should be disseminated via the WMP distribution contact list and the following organisations, with a note that the advice should be read in conjunction with the NICE guidance.

AWDAC  
D&TCs  
HoPMMs  
GPs  
Directors of Nursing, Trust and LHB  
Medical Directors, Trust and LHB  
Nursing Home Association  
CSIW  
Community pharmacists  
LMCs  
Community Pharmacy Wales  
CHCs  
Welsh Health Supplies

## **ACTION**

**AWPAG commends the work. WMP to seek the endorsement of AWMSG at their meeting in June 2006**

### **10. Risk sharing schemes in relation to AWMSG appraisals**

Members were asked to note the paper taken to AWMSG in March 2006 in relation to risk sharing. The Chair invited comments from the Committee. There was general agreement that risk sharing would be difficult to monitor and there was no outcome data from the MS Risk Sharing Scheme to support such schemes in NHS Wales.

## **ACTION**

**AWPAG recommends to AWMSG that risk-sharing schemes should not be considered within NHS Wales at this time**

### **11. Feedback from AWMSG March 2006 Meeting**

Members were asked to note the draft minutes of AWMSG meeting held March 2006.

### **12. NHSIF – Draft minutes of January 2006 meeting**

Members were asked to note the draft minutes of the NHSIF meeting held January 2006.

### **13. Any other business**

Members sought clarification from WeMeReC as to what will be contained within the WeMeReC study packs for the next year in relation to the national prescribing incentive scheme.

The Chairman asked for the views of the Committee in relation to AWPAG's engagement with the prescribing community. Members identified the need to engage with other professional groups and the wider community within primary and secondary care, and discussed potential agenda items for future meetings. Mrs Lang informed members that the AWMSG Steering Committee encouraged the sub-groups to be proactive in identifying future areas of work, but the work programme of both AWMSG sub-groups required the agreement of the Steering Committee to ensure they were working towards the work programme of the parent group.

Concern was expressed over the increasing use of NSAID's in children. It was agreed that AWPAG should discuss this issue at their next meeting in July 2006. Dr Tessa Lewis agreed to discuss the issue with Dr Paul Buss, Acting AWMSG Chairman.

The issue of adrenal suppression secondary to high dose inhaled steroids was discussed. This had been highlighted by Saferhealthcare (a partnership involving the NPSA) – lessons from a fatal accident enquiry. The group discussed whether further action was needed to ensure that the message had reached all LHBs and practitioners. Some regions were in the process of developing local guidance. It was decided that the issues should be covered when regions look at the prescribing trends by chapter.

There was no other business.

## **ACTION**

**WMP to seek clarification from WeMeReC in relation to the study packs and the national prescribing incentive scheme**



**AWPAG to consider the issue of NSAID use in children at their next meeting**

**Dr Tessa Lewis to discuss the issue of NSAID use in children with Dr Paul Buss**

**WMP to seek the agreement of the AWMSG Steering Committee in relation to the future work programme of AWPAG**

**Date and time of next meeting**

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at The Hill Education & Conference, Centre, Abergavenny commencing 10.30 am.**