

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 11TH JANUARY 2008 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

Mrs Nicola John (Chair)	National Public Health Service Wales
Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Susanna Jacks	GP South Wales
Mrs Katherine Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Dr Tessa Lewis	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP Mid and South West Wales
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist Mid & West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales

In attendance

Mrs Sue Baboolal (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre)
Mrs Andrea Clarke (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Carolyn Poulter (Welsh Assembly Government representative)

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
BNF	British National Formulary
BSC	Business Services Centre
CHCs	Community Health Councils
CSM	Committee of Safety of Medicines
DoH	Department of Health
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

NLIAH	National Leadership & Innovation Agency for Healthcare
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
RAG	Renal Advisory Group
RPSGB	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and invited Mrs Andrea Clarke to introduce herself.

2. Apologies

Dr Mark Daniels, GP South West Wales
 Mr Stuart Evans, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
 Mr Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist North Wales
 Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales
 Dr Stephen Lennox, Secondary Care Consultant
 Dr David Webb, Secondary Care Consultant

Apologies not received:

Dr Jonathan Jones, GP North Wales
 Dr Rob Bracchi, GP South Wales
 Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professions eligible to prescribe

3. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. There were none.

4. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

Matters arising

Methotrexate

The issue of methotrexate prescribing had been raised at the previous AWPAG meeting. Members had expressed concern at the quantities of tablets per script of methotrexate and identified a need to encourage regions to review prescribing control charts. Mr Terry asked if a high volume of methotrexate was being prescribed in trusts. It was suggested that AWPAG should consider levels of prescribing in Trusts across Wales.

ACTION

NJ to contact Robin Burfield at Health Solutions Wales to request prescribing data across Wales for consideration at next AWPAG meeting

Steroid cards

Mr Batt confirmed that advice on 'when to issue a steroid card' had not been circulated as concern had been expressed by the secondary care consultants in relation to the

document. Mr Batt agreed to provide WMP with an update of the concerns received so that the issue can be progressed with the specialist group.

ACTION

TB to email WMP outlining the outstanding issues

Prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (epo) in secondary care

Dr Webb was not at the meeting to provide feedback from the Renal Advisory Group.

Diabetes guidelines

Members discussed the latest position in relation to the diabetes guidelines developed by the consensus group. Mrs Simons agreed to provide WMP with the latest draft for circulation to members and Mr Nazareth agreed to follow up the NICE guidance.

ACTION

DS to email latest draft to WMP for circulation

KN to follow up NICE guidance

5. Prescribing reviews

The Chair invited Mrs Susan Baboolal of WeMeReC to provide an overview of Enclosure 2 – a proposal to establish an editorial process for the prescribing reviews. The Chairman invited members to consider the actions.

It was agreed that the existing chapters will be updated by the authors and used for internal use within AWPAG to identify trends and areas for potential improvement in prescribing.

Having identified the areas for improvement, AWPAG members agreed to prioritise these by selecting key focus points. It was suggested that a maximum of three per chapter would be adequate. It was agreed that these key focus points would be the subject of a subsequent report for AWMSG that would include AWPAG recommendations. The reports will contain advice regarding best practice, will be evidence-based and referenced. Mrs Baboolal confirmed that WeMeReC will act in an editorial capacity and will liaise with authors and co-ordinate the review process, including making the AWPAG draft report available for review by the NHS Industry Forum.

It was agreed that

- AWPAG will review the initial 'internal' BNF chapter reports prepared by the regional representatives.
- Agree the key points/potential areas for improvement which are to be highlighted (maximum of three).
- Nominate a lead writer to prepare the information on best practice that is to be presented to AWMSG (WeMeReC will liaise with this author to edit the document and facilitate its review via the NHSIF).
- Decide what, if any, further review the committee requires before the final report is presented to AWMSG.

The Chair invited discussion on the respiratory chapter (Enc 3). The author agreed to draw the agreed key points from the prescribing review into a short document and work with WeMeReC to produce a robust paper for scrutiny by NHSIF and presented to

AWMSG. Members agreed to consider and submit comments on the draft report electronically within a ten day period.

The review of the following chapters was agreed:

Cardiovascular - Mid and West Wales region

Endocrine – South East Wales region

ACTION

Author of Chapter 3 to prepare draft report summarising 3 key points in liaison with WeMeReC

Draft review of Cardiovascular and Endocrine chapters to be prepared for review at a future AWPAG meeting

6.. Thromboprophylaxis to prevent venous thromboembolism in hospitalized patients

The Chair invited comment on Enc 4 – a paper prepared by Dr Hamsaraj Shetty, Consultant Physician at the University Hospital of Wales who sought advice on mechanisms by which Welsh hospitals can ensure effective implementation of thromboprophylaxis programmes for hospitalized patients.

There was discussion over the current NICE and NPSA guidance on anticoagulation and confirmation that some Trusts have already established anticoagulation committees to deal with this issue. Members agreed the need to explore the current position across Wales and suggested emailing an audit-type questionnaire to the Chairs and Secretaries of Medicines and Therapeutics Committees (MTCs).

ACTION

WMP to email audit-type questionnaire to MTCs to assess current position across Wales

7. Prescribing incentive scheme

Prescribing incentive scheme feedback

Mr Duffield confirmed he had re-sent the questionnaire and had received all but two responses. Mr Duffield agreed to consolidate the information received and present at the next AWPAG meeting.

ACTION

- WMP to add to agenda of next meeting

Presentation from Primary Care Quality Forum (PCQF)

The Chair welcomed Laura Beer, Team Lead, Primary Care Quality and Information Service, NPHS and invited her to inform members of the work currently being undertaken on clinical audits, particularly anticoagulation monitoring. Members discussed potential links between AWPAG and Primary Care Quality Forum. Due to technical problems the audit plus software was not available and the proposed demonstration could not take place. The Chair encouraged collaborative working and thanked Ms Beer for raising awareness of the work of the Forum.

Incentive scheme audit

The Chair invited Tessa Lewis to update members on the anticoagulant audit which had been circulated to members for comment. Dr Lewis provided the background to the work and confirmed that there had been collaboration with NLIAH to agree key priorities. Dr Lewis informed the group that the draft audit had been developed by a small sub-group which had met at beginning of December. Dr Lewis confirmed the remit - to

provide a basic anticoagulation audit which could be adjusted locally with scope to change after local negotiation, to tie in with the National Patient Safety Agency. Ms Beer agreed to provide support to the AWPAG tool and offered to link with Dr Lewis and the working group, to ensure consistency of approach. A suggestion was made that the membership of the working group should include a HoPMM. The Chairman concluded by requesting that 'future audits' be added to the agenda of the next AWPAG meeting and confirmed that a paper outlining the draft audit will be presented to AWMSG in February 2008.

ACTION

Take draft audit to AWMSG in February 2008

Add 'future audits' to agenda of next meeting

Prescribing incentives in secondary care

Dr Webb was not in attendance to update members on this issue.

ACTION

- Request update from Dr Webb at next meeting

8. Prescribing Indicators update

National indicators

The Chair invited Mrs Louise Howard-Baker to update members in relation to the national indicators. It was confirmed that the indicators for 2008/2009 had been agreed and the information will be forwarded to Health Solutions Wales at the end of this week for posting on the website.

Mrs Lang confirmed that an invitation had been extended to Dr Rob Davies, NHSIF Secondary Care Consultant to join the Indicator Working Group. It was confirmed that Dr Mark Daniels had agreed to input as GP member. It was agreed that representation should be sought from the interface pharmacists group.

The Chairman confirmed that the draft paper for 2009/10 would be forwarded for comment to the following groups prior to it being presented to AWMSG:

LHB Finance Directors
Chief Pharmacists (Procurement Group)
NHS Industry Forum

The Chair requested that comments from AWMSG be circulated to members of the Indicator Working Group.

Early March – call for suggestions via HoPMMs
Indicator Working Group to meet middle to end **March 2008**

April 2008 - take discussion document to AWPAG
Indicator Working Group to meet during **June** /

Comments from other professional groups sought

July 2008 – AWPAG to consider final document

Any comments/suggestions to be incorporated and the document circulated and finalized electronically

September 2008 – AWMSG to discuss and ratify AWPAG's recommendations

ACTION

TL to seek nomination from interface pharmacists and inform Louise Howard-Baker

LH-B to send AWMSG comments to members of the indicator working group

Local comparators

Concern was expressed that the local comparators had not been validated. It was agreed that the Chair will seek the views of the Steering Committee in relation to whether WMP could provide interim support until the new prescribing support unit is operational.

ACTION

- Chair to seek interim professional support from WMP via AWMSG Steering Committee

- LH-B to address issue of DDDs for non-steroidals

- LH-B to instruct HSW to add a statement to the website that the basket requires validation

9. Shared care update

Amiodarone

Dr Lewis informed members that the Welsh Cardiovascular Society had withdrawn support for the shared care of amiodarone. She confirmed that WMP had made contact with Dr Groves and Dr Goodfellow and requested sight of the minutes of the meeting of the Society. Members expressed concern that the template cannot be progressed until the support of the cardiologists is received.

Other shared care issues

Dr Lewis informed members that an Interface pharmacists meeting will be held on 25th January 2008 at UHW. It is hoped that the group can develop a national definition of shared care classifications.

ACTION

- Report on Interface pharmacists meeting to be added to next agenda

10. Prescribing strategy

Mrs Lang confirmed that a Strategy Brainstorming had been held on Monday, 7th January. Comments from the meeting had been incorporated into the draft document, and a re-draft prepared for comment by the sub-groups prior to being presented to AWMSG on 14th February. Members were asked to submit any comments electronically to WMP by Wednesday, 25th January.

Action

- Members to submit comments electronically to WMP

11. Analytical Prescribing Unit

Mrs Poulter confirmed that funding is available to provide in-depth and on-going prescribing analysis on an all-Wales basis. The unit will be hosted within WMP so that it is integrated within the AWMSG structure. AWMSG will provide a steer so that the findings of the unit can be taken to the Minister. Input will be sought from the sub-groups, particularly AWPAG, who will advise on prioritisation and validate the unit's findings. The Chair confirmed AWPAG's support and agreed the group would advise on the prioritisation of the work programme and validate any findings.

It was suggested that the work of the prescribing support unit in England is looked at to see what can be incorporated into the unit's work programme.

12. AWPAG membership

Mrs Lang informed members of the reasons why Dr Stephen Lennox had missed three consecutive meetings. Members agreed that Dr Lennox should be asked to continue as Secondary Care Consultant if he is able to commit to the future meetings.

ACTION

- Circulate dates of meetings to all members and forward reminders two weeks prior to the meeting

- WMP to contact Dr Lennox to confirm agreement of AWPAG to continue membership

Mrs John resigned as Chair and confirmed that this will be her last meeting. Mrs Lang thanked Mrs John on behalf of the Welsh Medicines Partnership for her commitment and support to the Group. Mrs John confirmed that a replacement NPHS representative will be nominated. Mrs Lang confirmed that the Constitution states that the Vice Chair will not automatically assume the role of Chair at the end of Chair's term of office. Mrs Simons nominated, and it was seconded, that Dr Tessa Lewis be elected Chair. Members agreed unanimously. Mrs Lang requested nominations for Vice Chair be sent to WMP before the next Steering Committee on 24th January 2008.

ACTION

- Nominations for Vice Chair to be sent to WMP before 24th January 2008

13. NHSIF draft minutes October 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 6 – NHSIF draft minutes July 2007. No issues were raised.

14. NHSIF draft agenda January 2008

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 7 – NHSIF draft agenda October 2007. No issues were raised.

15. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting December 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 8 – AWMSG draft minutes December 2007.

Statin template

Dr Lewis informed members of AWMSG comments received in relation to the statin template and asked members to consider whether it should be updated in light of the new evidence. It was agreed that the template will be revisited when the cardiovascular prescribing review update is considered by the group.

16. Any other business

Consultation on rare diseases

The Chair asked members to consider whether they wished to respond to this consultation outside of the meeting.

Scriptswitch

The Chair requested that this be added to the agenda of the next meeting and asked the HoPMM members to decide whether they wished to produce a paper. It was noted that

NLIAH is promoting its use.

ACTION

- WMP to add to agenda of next meeting
- HoPMM members to consider preparing a paper

17. **Date and time of next meeting**
Tuesday, 15th April 2008 commencing 10.30 am at The Hill Education and Conference Centre, Abergavenny.