

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 11th March 2015 commencing 9.30 am At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Voting members

Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mrs Sian Evans	Consultant, Pharmaceutical Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist, Powys
Dr Peter Horvath-Howard	GPC Wales
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sally Lewis	Interim Assistant Medical Director/Primary Care Clinical Director, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf

In attendance (non-voting)

Mr Andrew Evans	DHSS
Mr Robin Howe	Public Health Wales
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Miss Christine Collier	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes	AWTTC
Mrs Kate Jenkins	AWTTC
Dr Tessa Lewis	AWTTC
Mrs Fiona Woods	Welsh Medicines Information Centre

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSG SC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (formerly called the Prescribing Incentive Scheme)
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Services
GP	General Practitioner
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
NWSSP	NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre

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1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Robin Howe and Fiona Woods to the group. Members introduced themselves.

2.0 Apologies

Mrs Jane Barnard

Mr Paul Fleming

Dr Rick Greville

Miss Sophie Harding

Lay member

British Generics Manufacturers

Director, ABPI Cymru Wales

Pharmacist, Velindre

3.0 Declarations of interest

The Chair asked for any declarations of interest. Robyn Miles declared interests pertinent to the agenda.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair reported that she had attended the AWMSG meeting on the 11 February 2015 and there was nothing to report.

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. Accuracy was agreed. The Chair asked for an update on action points:

National Prescribing Indicators 2015–2016 (Page 2) – Bev Woods pointed out that an edit was required to 'Bev Woods will share with the group when the PrescQIPP document has been developed'. This should read 'Bev Woods will share her document with the group when the PrescQIPP document has been developed'.

An example of good practice has been shared by Bev Woods but could be developed into a more comprehensive document, including method and findings. Yellow Card Centre Wales could also be involved.

Arrange attendance of All Wales Medical Directors/Assistant Medical Directors meeting to discuss NPIs – Chair spoken to Sally Lewis to take to MDs.

Action: AWTTC to update minutes.

Action: Bev Woods to develop and circulate good practice document.

Polypharmacy – Guidance for Prescribing in Frail Adults (Page 2) – The Chair informed the group that she had met with Professor John Hindle. Professor Hindle has provided key suggestions which the Chair has forwarded to Jamie Hayes. The main suggestion is that the term 'Frail' could imply that the guidance is not relevant to all and therefore should be taken out of the heading. Professor Hindle also suggested that the document be split into sections; this has since been done. Professor Hindle will promote this piece of work via the Older Persons Advisory Group. The feedback regarding this document has been very positive.

Action: AWTTC to remove the wording 'in Frail Adults' from document.

Prescribing Dilemmas (Page 5) – Document to go back to AWMSG SC and AWMSG.

Action: Reference Interventions Not Normally Undertaken document on complementary therapies.

Review of AWMSG National Audit: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing 2013–2015 (Page 5) – The Chair informed the group that she had not been able to speak with Faiza Kennedy to discuss the use of ScriptSwitch to direct computer systems to print a delayed prescription but had discussed with Jamie Hayes. Rob Bracchi updated the group regarding Audit+ and felt this audit was a priority. Andrews Evans informed the

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group that with regard to delayed prescriptions he had discussed this with Tessa Lewis and they are in contact with NWSSP.

Action: Rob Bracchi to contact NWIS to discuss using Audit+ to pull the data for the audit – intention is to target educational programmes throughout the year.

Implementation documents for AWMSG Advice on the Role of Oral Anticoagulants (Page 7) – Tessa Lewis informed the group that it had been agreed not to progress the 'What this means for patients' document. Other implementation documents were circulated in January 2015 and went to AWMSG for information. Action from previous meeting: Tessa Lewis to re-establish links with NWIS regarding process for IT recommendations.

Action: Tessa Lewis to follow up with NWIS.

6.0 Feedback from 17 December 2014 and 11 February 2015 AWMSG for information

National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2015–2016 – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website. Kate Jenkins informed the group that she has produced a slide set to support implementation. Sue Jeffs, Sally Lewis, Bev Woods, Fiona Walker and Sarah Isaac agreed to look at the slides and forward comments to Kate Jenkins by the end of March. Slide set will go to AWMSG for information and be placed on the website.

Action: Kate Jenkins to forward slides to members for comments.

Action: Slide set to go to AWMSG for information.

NPIs 2015–2016: Supporting Information for Prescribers – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website.

NPIs 2014–2015: Analysis of Prescribing Data to September 2014 – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website.

Respiratory Prescribing Analysis with Cluster Level Comparators – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website. The group were informed that a Diabetes Prescribing Analysis document is now being produced by WAPSU. This draft document will be presented at the next meeting of AWPAG.

All Wales Advice on the Role of Oral Anticoagulants: Implementation Considerations for Health Boards – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website.

Summary – Assessment for All People Established on Oral Anticoagulant Therapy – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website. Tessa Lewis requested the document be sent out via WeMeReC.

Review of AWMSG National Audit: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing 2013-2015 – The document was presented to AWMSG on 11 February 2015. It received the backing of the committee.

NPIs 2014–2015: Analysis of Prescribing Data to June 2014 – The document was presented to AWMSG on 17 December 2014. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website.

Robyn Miles left the meeting for the next item.

7.0 National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2015–2016 – further discussion

Kate Jenkins informed the group that correspondence had been received from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) relating to their inhaled corticosteroid fluticasone furoate (Relvar®). The comments from GSK were distributed to the group. Discussion followed regarding the definition of high strength. The information provided has not been published yet. It was agreed by the group that they will consider information when published. The product has received a positive recommendation and its positioning as an intermediate/high strength inhaled corticosteroid does not prohibit its use.

Kate Jenkins informed the group that further correspondence had been received from Aneurin Bevan Health Board regarding the proton pump inhibitor (PPI) section of the document. The suggestion was to add details from NICE Clinical Guideline (CG) on dyspepsia regarding rebound hypersecretion. Discussion followed regarding risk of fracture with PPIs. The group requested to see the reference. Kate Jenkins to send out the paper for review. Feedback to Kate Jenkins by end of March.

Action: The Chair to write to GSK thanking them for the information and confirming the group will review the drug baskets when there is published evidence to support the review.

Action: Paper and reference to be sent to members. Comments back by end of March.

Robyn Miles rejoined the meeting.

8.0 Documents for discussion

8.7 Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines

Robin Howe presented the Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines document and gave the background to the project. Discussion followed regarding the document and the process for consultation and subsequent AWPAG endorsement.

Current use of health board-specific treatment guideline applications was discussed. When guidance is endorsed the content can be added to apps across health boards in real time; therefore national guidelines would require the same speed of updating. Need firm statement at start that review will be in real time if document is to supersede local policy.

Rob Bracchi noted that some sections say 'see BNF' rather than providing specific doses. Robin Howe agreed to add the doses.

Bev Woods noted that the document specified use of nitrofurantoin MR; Bev Woods suggested that there needed to be an explanation of why MR.

Peter Horvath-Howard requested that out of hours directors be included in the consultation and dissemination lists.

Health Protection guidance has come out since Wales guidance was developed. This section is to be reviewed.

AWPAG members to feedback any further comments by the end of March with consultation to follow.

It was agreed that the document would be presented at the next meeting of AWPAG with the consultation responses.

Action: Paper to be sent to members for comment. Comments to be sent to AWTTTC by end of March 2015. Paper with consultation responses to be presented at next meeting of AWPAG.

Robin Howe presented 'Availability of Antibiotics in Wales'. This document is not for consultation but to be passed to antimicrobial pharmacists and MTCs for them to review their own formularies.

It was suggested to include update dates on the front sheet of each guideline. AWPAG do not need to see each update. There was the suggestion to have a specific contact who will communicate when new NICE guidance is issued.

Action: Document to be sent to MTCs.

Robin Howe presented the 'Guidance on Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Related to Caesarean Section'. Discussion followed.

Action: AWTTTC to send out for consultation and subsequent endorsement by AWMSG.

Robin Howe left the meeting.

8.1 All Wales Choose Pharmacy Formulary

Fiona Woods presented the All Wales Choose Pharmacy Formulary. This document represents an update to the original 2013 formulary. A full review will take place when a decision has been made about the future of the scheme. Evaluation of the scheme is underway and will be published after the election.

Two questions on the formulary were raised: Should Duac be removed? For verruca, should additional agents be included e.g. Glutarol, Verrugon?

Others issues raised for comment were:

- Head lice, scabies and threadworms and the issue of quantities to be supplied for individual/family.
- Should pharmacists register/record names of all individuals? Need consent of adults to register them.
- Head lice – should treat only those affected. Suggestion that proof of infestation is needed. There has been evidence of an increase in overall use of Hedrin – questioned whether this should be removed from formulary.
- Gastrocote has been discontinued – consider the treatment options for this condition.
- Cold sores and colic – suggestion that an explanation should be offered to explain why no treatment was being offered – add wording and include leaflet. These changes may be appropriate after the full review.
- Dermatitis under 12s – need to be consistent with health board formularies.
- Haemorrhoids – Group agreed that formulary should advise to treat and refer.

Action: Updated paper to be circulated for e-sign off and then presented to AWMSG SC and AWMSG for endorsement.

Fiona Woods left the meeting.

8.2 CEPP Local Comparators 2015–2016

Kate Jenkins presented the CEPP Local Comparators 2015–2016 document alongside the consultation comments.

The NOAC measure was discussed. It was felt that clarification was needed on whether items or cost/1,000 PUs were used. The group felt it should be items.

Discussion followed regarding additional measure: Items of NOACs as a percentage of all NOACs and warfarin to compare to England measure. This can be tracked against AF prevalence.

Measures agreed for LARC comparator.

Action: To be presented to AWMSG SC for information and circulated to relevant people in health boards.

8.3 National Audit: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing – Update

Tessa Lewis presented the National Audit: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing – Update. The additional section on sore throat based on antibiotic search was discussed. It was agreed that a search on penicillin was reasonable and that prescribers using alternative antibiotics may be better using the original search method. The additional supporting information was considered useful and additional 'do not use' wording is to be added. The group advised retaining the original UTI audit and agreed addition of the draft NICE Quality Standards highlighted – Tessa Lewis/AWTTC to check when final and include in document with reference – will also need supporting info. A contact was provided who has worked on UTI & MSUs within Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Susanna Jacks and Bev Woods will pilot new sections – UTI, penicillin, other sections if possible. This needs to be on the website by April 2015.

Action: Susanna Jacks and Bev Woods to pilot the new sections.

8.4 National Audit: Towards Appropriate NSAID Prescribing – Update

The Chair presented the National Audit: Towards Appropriate NSAID Prescribing – Update. 1000 Lives have been copied in to correspondence but not yet replied. There was a suggestion to add AKI to the introduction. A missing axis on a graph was pointed out – AWTTC to check. The list of drugs increasing bleeding risk also needs to be updated.

Action: Document to be finalised, circulated for AWPAG e-sign off then published on website.

8.5 Mechanisms to Promote and Support the Systematic Implementation of National Therapeutic Guidance – New project proposal

Tessa Lewis presented the Mechanisms to Promote and Support the Systematic Implementation of National Therapeutic Guidance. This is a new project proposal and was presented to AWMSG SC on the 2 March 2015.

The intention is to determine which messages are not reaching the service or may require support to implement. Members discussed whether this is within the remit of AWPAG and reconsidered alternative groups or processes?

E-learning into Info for Prescribers

Jonathan Simms informed the group of information available through the NICE associates but that confidentiality would need to be clarified.

The draft implementation document based on recent NICE guidance and the draft cardiovascular Quality Standard to be developed further – Louise Howard-Baker, Tessa Lewis, Fiona Walker and Jonathan Simms.

Action: Bring back to June 2015 AWPAG

8.6 Review of Current Guidance – Statin Template Guidance

The Chair asked the group to give their view on whether this document should be reviewed and updated or archived. The group felt that as it had been superseded by NICE this document should be archived.

The Prescribing of Amiodarone in Wales document was raised. There is an updated NICE CG on Atrial fibrillation therefore review and update of this document is required.

Action: Document archive question to AWMSG SC for approval.

Action: Louise Howard-Baker to look at the amiodarone document to determine what needs to be updated.

9.0 Verbal updates

9.1 All Wales Policy for Medicines Administration, Recording, Review and Storage

The Chair informed the group that the All Wales Policy for Medicines Administration, Recording, Review and Storage (MARRS) project is progressing. Louise Williams will be attending the June meeting of AWPAG to present the document.

9.2 Dose Taper and Discontinuation of Biologics in Low Disease Activity Rheumatology Patients and Review of Biologics Pathway

Christine Collier updated the group on the project. Due to a secondment Jayne Price has not progressed the work but is hoping to have something available for the AWPAG meeting in June. Bev Woods informed the group that Howard Rowe is disappointed by the lack of progress on this project. The Chair agreed for Bev Woods to communicate directly with Jayne Price.

Action: Bev Woods to contact Jayne Price.

9.3 Welsh Lexicon

Christine Collier updated the group on the project to develop a lexicon of Welsh medication labelling terminology, which could be adopted by pharmacy system suppliers and pharmacy contractors.

1. Research team has been established: Dyfrig Hughes (Bangor University), Delyth Prys (Head of Language Technologies Unit, Bangor University), Mair Martin (BCUHB), Sian Jones (BCUHB), Lowri Roberts (BCUHB) with potential input from two local community pharmacists.
2. We have gained permission from the BNF to translate their advisory and warning notices. A contract will be in place between Bangor University and the BNF, and they will pay a small fee for our 'services'. They intend publishing the Welsh list alongside the English version.
3. Translation of these has begun. Welsh terms and phrases are being uploaded onto Maes-T (<http://maes-t.com/>) which allows for wider stakeholder input for refinement.
4. The research team has collaborated with WrittenMedicine (www.writtenmedicine.com/) to submit an application for funding from the Welsh Government scheme for Welsh-language Technology and Digital Media. If successful, this will fund the translation of 2000+ terms required for dosing instructions; and a trial to test the acceptability of bilingual labelling.
5. The research team are committed to embark on the translation and validation of these 2000+ terms, regardless of the success of this application. However, this is an unfunded project, competing with other priorities.

9.4 Guidance to Support Safe Use of Long-term Oral Bisphosphonate Therapy

Kate Jenkins updated the group on the Guidance to Support the Safe Use of Long-term Oral Bisphosphonate Therapy. Kate Jenkins informed the group that she and Dr Stuart Linton are due to meet with Dr Mike Stone next Tuesday 17 March 2015 to discuss how best to proceed. Discussion followed regarding the work Jane Turton has undertaken. Jane Turton will also be attending the meeting on the 17 March 2015.

9.5 Medicines-related Admissions

Jamie Hayes informed the group that the Medicines-related Admissions project is progressing and that the paper had been to the Prudent Prescribing meeting. WeMeReC module is coming to an end. Results are available.

9.6 Prescribing Dilemmas: A Guide for Prescribers

Following consultation and e-sign off by AWPAG members, this paper has been sent out to AWMSG members and will be presented at the March meeting. Rob Bracchi

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highlighted that some references were out of date. For alternative therapy it was suggested to use INNU policy.

10.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee (AWCPC)

11.0 AOB

There was no further business.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 3 June 2015