

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2007 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y- POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Susanna Jacks	GP South
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Mrs Amy Kent	Pharmacist, South West Wales
Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP Mid and South West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

In attendance

Mrs Sue Baboolal
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
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, introduction & personalia

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Dr Rob Bracchi, GP Gwent

Dr Mark Daniels, GP Mid and West Wales

Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe

Mrs Katherine Hier, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe

Mr Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist North Wales

Mr Bill Duffield, Pharmacist North Wales

Mrs Nicola John, NPHS and AWPAG Chair

Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales

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

Prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (epo) in secondary care

Mrs Lang reported that the AWMSG Steering Committee agreed that as the issue of epo prescribing is being addressed by the Renal Advisory Group it should not be included on the work programme of AWPAG. Dr David Webb, the AWPAG/AWMSG representative on this Group, agreed to continue to provide feedback.

Dr Webb confirmed that he has written to the Chairman of the Renal Advisory Group in relation to lack of representation from South West Wales on the Renal Advisory Group. Some of the officers of the Renal Network have been appointed, but the group is not set up in its entirety. AWPAG expressed concern at the lack of input from South West Wales.

Diabetes guidelines

It was reported that NICE has issued draft guidance and final guidance is anticipated in April 2008. Members were informed that a second draft of the Welsh document – ‘Lifestyle Advice’ has been circulated by the Welsh Assembly Government Lead.

Prescribing reviews

Mrs Baboolal informed members that she is in the process of preparing a document clarifying the purpose, remit and editorial process in relation to the prescribing reviews. This document will be taken to the next AWMSG Steering Committee meeting in November and brought to AWPAG at their meeting in January 2008. Members discussed the role of the reviews in identifying prescribing patterns in relation to national guidance and identifying prescribing messages and good practice.

Action

- WMP/WeMeReC to prepare paper for January meeting outlining the process

Steroid cards

It was confirmed that the issue of steroid card guidance had been discussed with the AWMSG Acting Chairman who agreed to discuss the outstanding issues with Dr Philip Ebdon. Mr Batt informed members that he had been approached by Guys & St Thomas and Manchester who have requested a copy of the guidance on 'issuing a steroid card'.

5. Prescribing incentive scheme

Prescribing incentive scheme feedback

A set of questions prepared by Mr Bill Duffield was circulated to members for comment. The Chair provided the background informing members of the intention to circulate the questions to Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management and collate feedback in relation to the national prescribing incentive scheme. There was discussion over the need to explore the scope to expand the criteria of spend of the money.

Additional questions suggested:

Do you have a written document to support your criteria?

If so, could you provide a copy of this information?

What innovative schemes has your incentive scheme supported?

Is an incentive scheme worthwhile, is its prime aim being achieved?

Do you think the scheme has improved the care of patients?

In your last financial year (2005/2006), what percentage of your incentive scheme savings were unspent?

Action

- WMP/Chair to finalise and circulate to HoPMMs

Verbal feedback from pilot of steroid audit:

The Chair opened discussion in relation to the prescribing incentive scheme audit and clarified that it needed to be available to prescribers from April 2008. Members were informed that the feedback received from Dr Mark Daniels who had piloted the steroid audit in his practice was that the audit was useful although complicated and time-consuming.

A suggestion was made that AWPAG develop an anticoagulation audit to tie in with the National Patient Safety Agency audit (NPSA). Concern was expressed over duplication with NPSA, NPHS audit and also with enhanced service specification. However members welcomed the possibility of working with other agencies to promote safe practice in this area. The issues relating to high dose steroid inhaler use were also highlighted. Members were asked to express a preference over which audit they would prefer to take forward. The majority view was that AWPAG would develop an audit of the prescribing of anticoagulation using a refined version of the NPSA audit.

It was noted that for 2007/8 audit exemplars are available on the AWMSG website for local adaptation, and the national clopidogrel audit would also continue to be available on the AWMSG website.

Action :

- To seek the opinion of LHB Medical Director regarding inclusion of anticoagulant: TL
- Working group to develop prescribing incentive scheme audit for AWPAG January 2008 meeting

The issue of methotrexate prescribing was raised. AWPAG expressed concern at the quantities of tablets per script of methotrexate and identified a need to encourage regions to review prescribing control charts. Dr Webb and Mr Terry offered to examine the prescribing of methotrexate locally and report back to the Group.

Action

- Dr Webb/Mr Terry to examine what is happening locally and report back at the January meeting

Presentation from Primary Care Quality Forum (PCQF):

There was no representation from PCQF at the meeting.

Action

- AWPAG Chair to invite to January meeting

Prescribing incentives in secondary care

Dr Webb provided a brief overview of Enclosure 2 – Prescribing incentives in secondary care. Members acknowledged there is a need for local identification of prescribing problems and agreed that the sentiment in the document is valid. The Chairman asked members to consider which specific areas should be targeted and piloted. Several suggestions were made. Members recognised the need for input from a Trust Finance or Medical Director and asked WMP to seek the views of Dr Ferguson the AWMSG Trust Medical Director member. The Chair asked members to email suggestions of specific issues that could be part of an incentive scheme to Dr Webb who agreed to act as lead.

Action

- All members to submit suggestions for issues to Dr Webb
- WMP to seek the views of Dr Bruce Ferguson

6. Prescribing Indicators update

National indicators 2008/2009:

Mrs Howard-Baker informed members that Enclosure 3 had been ratified by AWMSG at their meeting in August 2007.

It was agreed that the defined daily dose for commonly used drugs included within the national indicators would be identified and consideration given to referencing them in future papers.

It was agreed that the change of generic baskets at April 2008 necessitated 2 different data sets for the preceding quarters.

Action

- L H-B to discuss with HSW

Local comparators

There were no issues of note. The basket of drugs will be updated by the indicator working group.

The timescale for the development of the prescribing indicators paper for 2009/10 has been agreed as follows:

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

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

7. Welsh Backs, helping to meet the NSAID reduction indicator

The Chair invited Dr Sally Venn, GP Adviser to the Welsh Back Campaign, to address the Group. Dr Venn informed members that the Welsh Back Campaign was launched by Welsh Assembly in October 2006. The campaign is aimed at the public, health professionals and employers to raise awareness and understanding of the management of mechanical low back pain. The Back Book was produced in the late 90's and Welsh Assembly Government commissioned the translation of the book. There are 50,000 copies of the bilingual book awaiting distribution which reinforces the message to stay active and use analgesia as appropriate. Dr Venn informed members that a website is currently under construction and it is anticipated that this will be launched in March 2008. Dr Venn also announced that she is in discussion with WeMeReC in relation to producing a bulletin on the management of back pain.

The Chair opened the discussion and members suggested the following:

- the book could be issued with a prescription
- an aide memoir could be available on GP systems which could be printed out during a consultation with the patient
- hard copy information (or electronic copies) could be held by the community pharmacists

The Chair thanked Dr Venn for her presentation to the Group.

8. Shared care update

Amiodarone

Dr Lewis confirmed that the amiodarone template had been disseminated electronically by WMP and will also be circulated by the Cardiac Network.

Other shared care issues

Dr Lewis referred the Group to Enclosure 6. Members discussed the issues highlighted by the interface pharmacists and AWPAG at their last meeting. It was noted that AWMSG's Final Appraisal Reports will set out the recommendation and identify whether the medicine is suitable for shared care. The group discussed ways of improving communication between healthcare organisations including a survey to establish existing interface and formulary committees. It was noted that regions now ensure that practice budgets are adjusted to take account of high cost drugs.

9. Prescribing strategy

The Chair invited comment on the three appendices of the prescribing strategy document. There was agreement that the recommendations should be more specific and measurable. Detailed comments were made by AWPAG. The Chair asked members to email further comments to WMP. AWPAG suggested a working group meeting to progress the document.

Action

- **Members to submit comments electronically to WMP**
- **WMP/AWMSG steering group to consider a sub-group meeting**

10. Statin template update

Mrs Lang confirmed that the AWMSG Steering Committee had agreed that the statin template should be updated by Dr Duerden on behalf of AWPAG. The updated document was subsequently posted on the AWMSG website and a letter has been issued by Mrs Poulter drawing attention to the guidance. It was reiterated that NICE guidance will supersede AWMSG advice should it be subsequently published.

11. Engaging with MTCs – Raising awareness

Mrs Lang sought the views of members of how improvements in communication with MTCs could be made. There was discussion over electronic circulation of information, email alerts, a briefing meeting, bulletins etc.

Action

- **WMP to arrange a meeting with representatives of MTCs**

12. FAQs

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 9 – frequently asked questions. No issues were raised.

13. NHSIF draft minutes July 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 10 – NHSIF draft minutes July 2007. No issues were raised.

14. NHSIF draft agenda October 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 11 – NHSIF draft agenda October 2007. No issues were raised.

15. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting August 2007

The Chair drew members' attention to Enclosure 12 – AWMSG minutes August 2007. No issues were raised.

16. Any other business

There was no other business.

17. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday, 15th January 2008 commencing 10.30 am at The Hill Education and Conference Centre, Abergavenny.