

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY 2006 COMMENCING 10.30AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

Mr Mike Curson	Pharmacist South East Wales (deputy)
Dr Mark Daniels	GP South West Wales
Mr William Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Katherine Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP South East Wales (deputy)
Mrs Nicola John (Chair)	NPHS Representative
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Dr Stephen Lennox	Secondary Care Consultant
Dr Tessa Lewis (Vice Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP South West Wales (deputy)
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist South West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

In attendance

Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Alistair Meredith (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
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

SLA	Service Level Agreement
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and members were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

Mr Trevor Batt (was represented by deputy pharmacist, Mr Mike Curson)

Dr Paul Buss (AWMSG/AWPAG link member)

Dr Charlie Danino (was represented by deputy GP, Dr Ashok Rayani)

Dr Robert Bracchi (was represented by deputy GP, Dr Susanna Jacks)

Mr Berwyn Owen (Pharmacist North Wales)

Dr Martin Duerden (GP North Wales)

Mrs Debbie Davies (Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe)

Mrs Judith Vincent (Pharmacist South West 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 meeting held Wednesday, 10th May 2006 were checked for accuracy and content. The following paragraph should be inserted under any other business:

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.

Matters arising:

Membership issues:

It was reported the appointment of Dr David Webb and Dr Stephen Lennox, the two secondary care consultant members, and Dr Susanna Jacks, deputy GP member, had been made. The Chair extended a welcome to these individuals and confirmed that although the AWPAG Constitution stated the membership should consist of one secondary care consultant member, the Group had considered there was a need to extend the secondary care representation. This recommendation had subsequently been approved by the AWMSG Steering Committee and the additional appointment had been made. The Chair reported that Dr Paul Buss would continue to act as AWMSG / AWPAG link member, as well as providing additional secondary care input into the Group.

Concern was expressed at the continuing lack of professional support by Mrs Karen Samuels, representing WMP and Mr Jamie Hayes, representing WMP/WeMeReC. Mrs Lang confirmed that professional support to sub-groups was not included in the SLA with Welsh Assembly Government. The enhanced service that had previously been provided to the groups could not be maintained due to the substantial reduction in the funding for

the financial year 2006/2007 and the steer from Welsh Assembly that WMP should concentrate on the appraisal process in Wales. The Chair requested that Mr Jamie Hayes be invited to attend the next AWPAG meeting to discuss the proposed audit to be included in the national prescribing incentive scheme for 2007.

ACTION

– WMP to invite Mr Jamie Hayes to next AWPAG meeting

Prescribing strategy:

Mrs Lang reported that Professor Philip Routledge is currently compiling the notes of the prescribing strategy working groups meetings. It is anticipated that this document will come back to the sub-group for discussion prior to it being presented to AWMSG. Mrs Lang confirmed that the comments of the group in relation to the membership of the working groups had been forwarded to Professor Routledge and agreed to circulate the names of the individuals who had been involved in the preliminary discussions.

ACTION

– WMP to circulate membership of prescribing strategy working groups to AWPAG members

Glucose testing:

Mrs Lang reported that contact had been made with Professor David Owens who had confirmed that the Welsh Assembly Government consultation in relation to diabetes should be released within the next two weeks.

ACTION

- WMP to circulate the consultation document to all AWPAG members

Multi-compartment compliance aids (MCAs) & monitored dosage systems:

Mrs Lang reported that at a recent AWMSG Steering Committee meeting Mrs Carolyn Poulter had agreed that this issue should be taken forward as a matter of priority. Mr Meredith confirmed that a meeting had recently been held with Mrs Cath O'Brien, Director for Wales of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Mrs O'Brien had presented a paper to AWPAG at the meeting in January 2006 following which Mrs Kath Haines (Pharmacist South West Wales – deputy member) and Mr John Terry had volunteered to participate in a working group to address the issues. Mr Meredith confirmed that a submission outline would shortly be presented to the Minister for Health & Social Services. The Chair confirmed the need for AWPAG to work with appropriate individuals and organizations to highlight risk management and the professional/safety issues. There was a suggestion that a nomination from the Chief Pharmacists and Welsh Geriatric Society for a Secondary Care Consultant in the Care of the Elderly should be sought. The Chair asked members to refer to the outline plan for the development of this issue contained in the minutes of the January 2006 meeting.

Destruction of controlled waste

It was reported that the AWMSG Steering Committee had considered this was not a priority for the AWPAG work programme at the present time.

Contents of WeMeReC study packs

Mrs Lang confirmed that she had sought clarification from WeMeReC in relation to the availability of the following study packs.

Understanding evidence – currently available
Palliative Care – planned for Autumn 2006
Anticoagulation – planned for first quarter of 2007

Ibuprofen prescribing in children

Dr Lewis expressed concern over the increase in the use of ibuprofen in children as first line therapy instead of paracetamol. Dr Webb suggested contacting the British Association of Paediatric Nephrologists (BPN) for a view. Members commented there were indications that a problem currently exists, but no evidence available to support it.

ACTION

- AWPAG to write to BPN to ascertain level of evidence currently available
- WMP to request feedback from YCC (Wales) formerly, CSM (Wales)

5. Independent Prescribing

The Chairman welcomed Miss Sian Evans and invited her to introduce herself. Miss Evans informed members she is employed as a pharmacist in Merthyr Tydfil LHB, and has a part time secondment by Welsh Assembly Government to project lead Independent Prescribing within Wales. Miss Evans confirmed that the policy lead for the project is Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells, Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser in the Assembly, and proceeded to inform members of the issues around [independent prescribing in Wales](#). In conclusion, Miss Evans sought a nomination for secondary care consultant input to the working group on independent prescribing. The Chair thanked Miss Evans for the information and clarification.

ACTION

Dr David Webb to provide Sian Evans with a nomination for secondary care consultant input

6. Indicators

Response from AWMSG to proposed national indicators 2007/2008:

The Chair provided the background to Enclosure 2 and informed members that there was overall support from AWMSG to the paper presented to AWMSG in June 2006. It was agreed that any future papers in relation to National Indicators should be presented to AWMSG by a member of the Indicator Working Group who could provide clarification on any issues raised at the meeting. With regard to the statin indicator, it was noted that the additional information had been provided by Mrs Fiona Walker and this would be incorporated into the document by the Chair of the Indicator Working Group, following further amendments suggested by Stuart Evans.

The group discussed whether there is a need to increase the generic indicator. Members expressed conflicting views and it was agreed that Mr Nazareth and Dr Daniels would address this issue outside of the meeting. The Chair confirmed that the issues relating to local comparators had been addressed by the HoPMMs, and AWPAG would be happy to receive their deliberations at a future meeting. The group discussed the wording of the national indicators for the current financial year. Members felt the wording was ambiguous and did not reflect last year's discussion, and asked WAG to confirm whether the wording could be amended.

ACTION

- Mr Nazareth and Dr Daniels to liaise outside of the meeting with regard to the indicator for generic prescribing
- Mr Stuart Evans to amend the evidence section of the statin paper, as outlined in the meeting
- Mrs John, as Chair of the indicator working group, agreed to finalise the update the National Indicator 2007/2008 paper in light of the discussions and forward to HSW/WMP
- WAG representative to confirm whether the wording in relation to the national indicator targets could be amended

7 Sharing good prescribing practice

Process for identifying trends and issues:

Mrs Lang informed members that the AWMSG Steering Committee had asked AWPAG to consider prescribing practice in relation to the NSFs and the use of benzodiazepines. The Chair confirmed that these issues would be addressed by the Group.

A prescribing review of BNF Chapter 1 – Gastro-intestinal system and BNF Chapter 2 – Cardiovascular system:

The Chair invited Mr Duffield to present Enclosure 3 – A Prescribing Review of BNF Chapter 1: Gastro-Intestinal System and BNF Chapter 2 – Cardiovascular system

It was agreed that, in considering the reviews, AWPAG should make recommendations to AWMSG in light of any prescribing issues that may come to the fore. The Chair suggesting adding projected expenditure and savings into the documents. It was agreed that following the meeting Mr Duffield would briefly summarize the issues raised, providing broad estimates of resource implications which would subsequently be incorporated into papers to be presented to AWMSG. It was identified there is a need for the evidence-base and references to support the documents, and members discussed how this professional support could be provided.

The Chair thanked Mr Duffield and his colleagues for the extremely valuable information. Mrs Simons agreed that pharmacist representatives from Mid and West Wales would review the next two BNF chapters – Respiratory and CNS and prepare two papers to be presented to AWPAG at their next meeting in October.

ACTION

- Mr Duffield to summarize the issues raised in the Group's discussion
- Mrs Simons to ensure that two papers from Mid and West Wales are sent to AWPAG for their next meeting in October
- AWPAG recommend that Welsh Assembly Government (via the AWMSG Steering Committee) give serious consideration to the funding of professional support to sub-groups

8. Template review

Audit templates:

Mr Evans tabled a list of example audit templates that had been provided by his professional colleagues. It was agreed that Mr Evans would forward the table and examples to WMP for posting on the WMP website.

ACTION

- Mr Evans to forward the template information to WMP for posting on the WMP website
- WMP to preface these templates with an introductory paragraph indicating that the audit templates are posted for information purposes, and to promote wider discussion, and that content has not been reviewed by AWPAGor AWMSG

Template for the use of statins in primary and secondary prevention of coronary heart disease:

In the absence of Dr Martin Duerden, the Chair invited Mr Evans to present the updated template to the Group. Mrs Lang confirmed that Professor Philip Routledge had agreed to contact the Chairman of the All Wales Cardiac Network prior to forwarding the template to the Networks for comment. Members agreed there is a need for consistency of advice and that AWMSG and its sub-group should establish closer links with the networks. Dr Lennox left the meeting.

It was agreed that the document should be brought back to AWPAG for further discussion when the comments from the Cardiac Network have been received.

ACTION

- WMP to contact Chair of the All Wales Cardiac Network
- WMP to forward template to the Cardiac Network for comment
- WMP to collate the comments and bring back to a future meeting of the Group

9. Update on Shared Care Core All Wales Amber Drug List (Rheumatology)

Dr Lewis informed members that at their June 2006 meeting AWMSG had endorsed the core amber list and suggested that AWPAG might wish to expand the list of drugs for shared care. It had been agreed at AWMSG that tobramycin and dornase alpha should be identified as a priority, as the confusion that currently exists within the service in relation to the prescribing of these drugs to adult patients with cystic fibrosis needs to be urgently addressed. It was noted that AWMSG should work more closely with Informing Healthcare to address the IT concerns. Dr Webb expressed concern over the prescribing of erythropoietins and asked for clarity in relation to the prescribing by district nurses. Dr Webb and Mr Evans agreed to provide comment to Dr Lewis who confirmed her willingness to continue to lead on shared care to progress the outstanding issues, including an overall review of erythropoietin prescribing. It was noted there is a need for an improved mechanism for communication, to inform key stakeholders of work in progress as well as completed documents.

ACTION:

- WMP and Dr Lewis to draft an email
- Existing AWMSG shared care templates to be disseminated to all MTCs, HoPMMs and Chief Pharmacists by WMP

10. Prescribing of topical corticosteroid preparations

It was agreed that this paper should be discussed at the next meeting as Dr Duerden was not in attendance to present the paper to the Group.

ACTION

- WMP to add to the agenda of the October 2006 meeting

11. Update on sip feeds:

Dr Lewis reported that at the AWMSG held in June 2006, the sip feeds paper presented by Dr Lewis had been endorsed. Following the meeting, the comments of AWMSG members had been incorporated into the document which was now ready for dissemination to the Service. The Chair thanked Dr Lewis for her input, and that of her colleagues on the working group, and asked that WMP draft an email in conjunction with Dr Lewis which would be sent out electronically and posted on the AWMSG website.

ACTION

- WMP to draft email in conjunction with Dr Lewis, circulate the document electronically and post on the AWMSG website

12. Risk sharing schemes in relation to AWMSG appraisals - update

The Chair asked members to note the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held Wednesday, 7th June in relation to risk sharing and the decision to await further information on the strengths and weaknesses of the ongoing national UK cost-sharing scheme before deciding whether to consider risk/cost sharing in relation to AWMSG appraisals.

13. Feedback from AWMSG June 2006 Meeting

The Chair invited comments in relation to the AWMSG June 2006 draft minutes. There were none.

14. Feedback from NHSIF April 2006 meeting and agenda for July meeting

Members noted that WMP had been asked to post examples of good partnership working on the AWMSG website and suggested that WMP should also post examples of bad practice, or practice that fell outside the scope of the WHC (2005) 016 on partnership working. It was requested that all statements of both good and bad practice are underpinned by an evidence, policy or legislative base, and not simply opinion.

ACTION

- WMP to convey the comments to the AWMSG Steering Committee

15. Any other business

Consultation on the proposal to place the Statutory Health Professional Advisory Committees with the Wales Centre for Health

The Chair invited members to comment on the Welsh Assembly Government consultation document provided in the meeting packs.

The recommendation of AWPAG is that AWMSG should retain its independence, continue to provide advice directly to the Minister for Health and Social Services and should not form part of the Wales Centre for Health.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18th October 2006 at the Hill Education and Conference Centre, Abergavenny