

Enclosure No:	6/AWMSG/0611
Agenda Item No:	10 – AWPAG update
Author:	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
Contact:	Tel: 029 20716900 E-Mail: wmp@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Thursday 14th April 2011 at 10.30am At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Ms Jane Barnard	Lay Member
Mrs Nuala Brennan	Public Health Wales
Mr Richard Greville	Director, ABPI Wales (non-voting)
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist, North Wales
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, West Wales
Dr Susannah Jacks	GP
Dr Sue Jeffs	Secondary Care Consultant
Mr Neil Jenkins	Welsh Informatics Service
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP (GPC Wales link)
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP (GPC Wales link)
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr Warwick Smith	Director BGMA
Mr John Terry	Secondary Care Pharmacist
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Janette Wilkins	ABPI Industry Representative

In attendance

Mr Trevor Brooking (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Key of abbreviations

AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (formerly known as the Prescribing Incentive Scheme)
CPW	Community Pharmacy Wales
DoH	Department of Health

GP	General Practitioner
HoPMM	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
MHRA	Medicines Health and Regulatory Authority
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
PSU	Prescribing Support Unit
SLA	Service Level Agreement
UHB	University Health Board
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WIS	Welsh Informatics Service
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members, and reminded those present of the remit of the Group and the protocol for the conduct of the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mr Bill Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Mr Dave Hopkins
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty
Mrs Judith Vincent
Dr David Webb

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report regarding papers endorsed by AWMSG in February and March 2011.

4. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy.

As noted at AWMSG, Item 17 under any other business to be re-titled, "Dronedarone" as it related to the recent 'MHRA warning' on dronedarone. Dronedarone has not been 'withdrawn' as stated in the original title and the Chairman apologised for the error.

Matters arising:

Page 3 – Prescribing Leads Network

Primary care clinical networks were discussed at a meeting organised by WAG and NLIH. The benefits of the therapeutics communication pathways were noted. Where available these utilise GP practice prescribing leads, locality leads, medicines and therapeutics committees and AWMSG.

Page 3 - Monitored Dosage System (MDS) at Hospital Discharge

Dr Susanna Jacks presented data from a baseline survey carried out by 7 practices during the period January – March 2011. Members discussed expanding the primary care baseline data collection, to both inform future work and enable monitoring of the uptake of the recent AWPAG/AWMSG guidance. Dr Jacks agreed to draft a document for practices noting Key Prescribing points. The chair informed the group that Sue Beach had started a data collection; an update was awaited from Dr Shetty.

Page 4 – NSAID Audit

Jon Simms had informed the chief pharmacists of the AWMSG NSAID audit.

Sue Jeffs informed the meeting that she was looking into the information cascade within Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

AWPAG have been tasked with identifying or developing a brief analgesics patient information leaflet. Nuala Brenan informed members of the Health Literacy in Wales work recently undertaken under NPHS. Sue Jeffs agreed to progress.

ACTION

Sue Jeffs - Analgesics Patient Information leaflet to be considered July AWPAG

Page 5 - Lipid Prescribing

In response to members' comments at the January meeting regarding adverse reaction reports for rosuvastatin, WMP had contacted YCC Wales. There were not significant levels of reporting.

The chairman informed the meeting that she and WMP members had met with the SE Wales Cardiac Network. SEWCN were interested in the lipid prescribing data presented and agreed to provide comment on the draft updated lipid template once available.

The lipid prescribing template had not been progressed due to unavailability of some staff. Sarah Isaac agreed to progress the work with support from Jonathan Simms and WMP. An interim update to the previous AWMSG website statin template was discussed.

ACTION

Sarah Isaac to develop consultation draft of lipid template

Interim website documentation to be considered by AWMSG Chairman

ABPI to be advised as to when companies will have opportunity to comment on draft document.

Page 7 - Extending shared care

The Chairman informed the group that the renal clinicians are now actively considering specialist prescribing of renal immunosuppressants.

The Chairman conveyed the suggestion from Stuart Evans that dronedarone (Multaq) be considered for shared care following the recent MHRA report. Louise Howard Baker suggested adding it into the amiodarone shared care mechanism.

Misunderstandings surrounding mechanisms for hospital prescribing were noted and it was agreed that a briefing note could be helpful.

ACTION

Welsh Interface Pharmacists to assess dronedarone suitability for shared care & communication regarding specialist prescribing options.

5. Non NHS Prescribing – A Guide for Prescribers

Louise Howard Baker presented a paper which had been updated since being presented to AWMSG in February 2011. Jonathan Simms recommended re wording of paragraph

2 in section 1.0. Comments had recently been received from GPC Wales. Whilst some of the comments had already been addressed in the latest version of the paper a few amendments were discussed and agreed. Mrs Howard Baker confirmed that the document was consistent with the current consultation draft of the GMC guidance, "Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices."

The group considered the dissemination of the document within NHS Wales and the identification of Key Points. Ruth Lang informed the meeting that WMP have been in discussion with a media company regarding the presentation of AWMSG documentation.

ACTION

Louise Howard Baker to update paper for AWMSG June and develop dissemination documentation with WMP

7. Antimicrobial Prescribing in Wales

The chairman provided a verbal update from the antimicrobial stewardship forum, noting the group's interest in developing national guidance.

Members considered primary care antimicrobial prescribing data (Q4.2010) provided by Helen Adams (WMP) for the AWMSG Antimicrobial National Indicator. Comparative data with English regions was provided by Jonathan Simms. These were discussed at length to identify mechanisms that could promptly support best practice and movement against the national indicators. It was agreed that a task and finish group should meet before the next meeting of AWPAG to look at key messages and to develop a toolkit for use in NHS Wales. Fiona Walker and Louise Howard Baker expressed interest.

Neil Jenkins had to leave the meeting but noted the following in relation to prescribing data, which was reported by the chairman:

Although CASPA data has a 3 month lag time to ensure accuracy, it may be possible to provide practices with 'crude/unverified data' within a much shorter time frame. The data could only be provided for specified tasks such as National Indicators and not for the full range of information products. Prescribing Services would need to carry out a full assessment of the limitations of such data before committing to providing it. This would be welcomed by prescribers.

ACTION

**Chairman to liaise with Robin Howe and Karen Fitzgerald regarding a T&F group
Members to forward examples of good practice to Susan Cervetto at WMP**

Neil Jenkins to provide a paper for circulation to members

AWPAG recommendation to AWMSG to support the development of prompt 'interim' prescribing data

The chairman invited Warwick Smith to comment on the variable pricing of certain antimicrobial liquid preparations.

Mr Warwick Smith spoke to the group about the drug tariff and the cost issues surrounding sugared and non-sugared preparations. He reported that at the heart of the issue is a shift in prescribing from the sugared liquid product to sugar-free. Manufacturers have followed this change in prescribing behaviour to shift their focus to manufacturing the sugar-free product. There are difficult stability issues to be dealt with in the case of the sugar-free solution, and this leads to its price being higher than the sugared product. No product shortages have been identified.

He noted that overall, reimbursement prices have been very stable. The only significant change is in 125mg 100ml oral solution where the reimbursement price has risen from £4.41 to £13.12 in the March Tariff. This product moved from Category M to Category C in January. Category M reimbursement prices are calculated on the basis of actual market prices charged by manufacturers. Products in this Category account for approx 85% of the Tariff by value, and are those of a significant size where there is competition between manufacturers which maintains downward pressure on prices.

He noted that Category C is for those products where the size of the market is small, or where data on market prices are not received from more than one manufacturer. In this Category, reimbursement prices are based on the price list of a selected supplier. Price lists may or may not reflect the market prices charged by manufacturers.

Members agreed that the significant variation in pricing of named antimicrobial formulations could have an impact on NHS Wales and that a systematic approach to such issues could be beneficial.

ACTION

Chairman to raise with AWMSG Steering Committee and MMPB

8. Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (Incentive Scheme) Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)

The chairman provided a reminder of the findings of the 2008 AWPAG Incentive Scheme review undertaken by William Duffield.

Changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for 2011/12 were presented. AWPAG considered the new QoF Quality and Productivity prescribing indicators. Two members had had sight of the WAG/MMPB draft guidance.

It appeared that there was still some discussion as to which targets LHBs would be encouraged to use and the degree of local adaptation. The AWMSG indicators are developed via a robust process including comment from the industry. In light of this and the UK benchmarking data suggesting significant scope for improvement for most practices in Wales, AWPAG strongly recommend that the AWMSG National Indicators should normally be used by LHBs; the choice of which AWMSG National Indicator being determined locally. There was discussion regarding the aim of the QoF QP indicators and the extent to which the cost indicators should be prioritised.

Jon Simms has noted difficulties with timing and measurement of targets and is providing direct feedback. The indicators require internal and external peer review. AWPAG noted the national move towards Neighbourhood Care Networks but considered that a more robust discussion may be had if existing Prescribing Leads Forums are utilised or alternatively NCN joined for the peer review.

It was felt that guidance was needed urgently to promote the retention of the Cost Effective Prescribing Programmes [Incentive Scheme] to complement QOF and to support the educational and quality agenda. There was continuing support for the National Scheme which originally recommended a 50% split between prescribing indicators and the educational component.

ACTION

AWPAG to forward recommendations

Local Comparators

The chairman referred members to the list of local comparators for 2011/12 which had been prepared by Bill Duffield for AWPAG.

The list was discussed and the following comments raised:

Item (3) Use of Tramadol

The unit of measure was questioned and Louise Howard Baker will seek clarification from the author.

Item (13) Disinvestment: Patent extension/evergreening products, for discussion

Rick Greville informed the meeting that the majority of patent extensions would probably be for paediatric extensions. He suggested that these are not included in this item.

Item(14) Disinvestment: Preparations less suitable for prescribing, for discussion

Several members questioned the background to the list of drugs. Previously the list had been as defined by the BNF. WMP members noted that this subject is under discussion by the MMPB.

ACTION

Louise Howard Baker/ Bill Duffield to update list

Yellow card reporting to be discussed next meeting

National Indicators 2011/12

Louise Howard Baker informed the group that she was the only member left from the original working group tasked to look at National Indicators. It was agreed that a new working group would be developed:

Louise Howard Baker

Fiona Walker

A secondary care consultant

Dr Martin Duerden to be invited

ACTION

WMP/Louise Howard Baker to convene Task and Finish group meeting to develop draft recommendations for National indicators 2012/13

9. Patient Interface at Point of Discharge

Jane Barnard presented a paper for discussion by the group. The group noted the good processes in many hospitals but that some patients may fall outside of these. It was agreed that there is an issue of patients not taking prescribed medicines following discharge and that providing a patient-friendly summary of their medications and a contact number could be very helpful. Electronic discharge summaries could be developed to include a summary sheet for the patient. Dr Jonathan Jones informed the group of the documentation used at Ysbyty Gwynedd which was a single sheet of A4 paper giving a medicines summary to patients at discharge. The document contained the names of the medicines, a basic indication and the timing of administration. Nuala

Brennan informed the meeting that there is currently ongoing work and that a report is due to be published shortly by Public Health Wales. It was noted that the School of pharmacy are researching MURs 6 weeks post discharge.

It was agreed that the group should conduct a scoping exercise to determine existing practice in Wales. Brief questionnaire to each Health Board in Wales to include:

- Information provided to most patients regarding their medication at discharge
- Whether advice is verbal / written
- Whether contact phone number or advice line is included
- Who 'mans' the advice line in hours/ out of hours (Pharmacist/other)
- Request to share documentation provided to patients.

John Terry and Jane Barnard agreed to lead the work on behalf of AWPAG. Sue Jeffs, Louise Howard-Baker, Nuala Brennan and Warwick Smith offered to provide further information or support.

ACTION

John Terry and Jane Barnard to provide update paper to July meeting

10. Draft National Medicines Management Board letter

The Chairman referred members to the draft letter that had been prepared by the NMMPB. The group discussed the letter and the Chairman agreed to feedback comments if the letter is to be progressed by the Programme Board.

11. Review of Medicines Strategy for Wales

The chair referred the group to the draft update of the medicines strategy for Wales, noting the core role in the work programme of AWPAG. Rick Greville suggested that the evidence base for the Medicine Management Achievements on page 2 be referenced. After further discussion it was agreed that members submit comments by 5th May 2011.

ACTION – members were asked to submit comments to the Chairman by 5th May 2011

12. WAPSU Invest to Save - Hypnotics

Karen Samuels gave a brief update on the response by WAG to the recommendations made by AWMSG.

13. Feedback from other meetings

Welsh Interface Pharmacists Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2011 were presented. It was agreed that prescribing for erectile dysfunction was an important issue requiring clarification and that this should be progressed initially via the interface pharmacists with additional support from Fiona Walker and discussion with WAG as necessary.

Medicines Management Programme Board

The Chairman gave brief verbal feedback and shared a copy of the 1000 lives booklet

All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group

There were no issues of note.

PSU Users Group

There were no issues of note.

Welsh Informatics Service

There were no issues of note.

Papers for Information

14. The following papers were circulated for information but not subject to discussion:

- Denosumab for the prevention of osteoporotic features in postmenopausal women
- Invest to save AWMSG project updates presented to AWMSG March 2011:
 - WAPSU Invest to Save Initiative project
 - Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)
- AWMSG response to Department of Health Consultation on value based pricing

15. **Public Health Wales Campaign – Diabetes Risk Assessment**

Nuala Brennan informed the meeting that Public Health Wales are running a campaign about diabetes risk assessment.

Date of next meeting – Thursday, 7th July 2011, at the St Michaels Conference Centre, Abergavenny.