

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th JANUARY 2004 AT 9.30 AM In the Boardroom, Hensol Castle Conference Centre Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan, CF72 8YS

Members

Dr Thomas Lau (Chairman)
Mrs Nicola John (Vice Chair)

Dr Jeremy Black
Dr Robert Bracchi
Dr Martin Duerden
Mr William Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Mr Paul Gimson
Mr Ken Nazareth
Miss Tracy Parry
Mrs Delyth Simons
Mr John Terry
Mrs Judith Vincent

In attendance

Dr Kevin Smith, representing Dr Gillian Todd

Mrs Carolyn Poulter (Welsh Assembly Government)

Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Professor Philip Routledge (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Action

- 1 **Welcome**
The Chairman welcomed members to the second meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG).
- 2 **Apologies**
Dr Stephen Griffiths
Dr Gillian Todd
- 3 **Declarations of interest**
Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda.
- 4 **Minutes of previous meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd October 2003 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

5 ***Matters arising***

There were no matters arising.

6 ***Development of antiplatelet prescribing guidance***

AWMSG had tasked AWPAG with the development of an all Wales prescribing policy template and audit tool covering antiplatelets for local MTCs to tailor and implement to promote the clinical and cost effective antiplatelet prescribing in Wales in an auditable/demonstrable manner. The Chairman invited Mrs Sara Thomas of Bridgend LHB to address the group. Mrs Thomas informed the she had recently been involved with the drawing up of guidelines for the use of clopidogrel for the Mid and West Wales region. The objective of this guidance was to raise awareness and develop an audit with educational support to effect a change in prescribing practice. A copy of her presentation is attached for information.

WMP provided a copy of the antiplatelet policy from Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust (appendix 1) and Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust (appendix 2), and a paper on Clopidogrel prescribing from Mid & West Region Medicines Management Group (appendix 3) for consideration by the group.

There was discussion over the conflicting guidance currently available, particularly the duration of treatment. The group agreed that national guidance would be extremely useful to the service in Wales. It was agreed that WMP would work with Mrs Sara Thomas and the Welsh Cardiac Network to develop guidance, to be brought back to a future meeting of AWPAG. The group also agreed that once approved by AWMSG, guidance would be issued by the Welsh Assembly Government as a Welsh Health Circular.

WMP

7 ***Core all-Wales statin prescribing guidance***

AWPAG had been tasked by AWMSG to develop an all-Wales prescribing policy template and audit tool on statins for local adoption and adaptation by MTCs to promote the clinical and cost-effective prescribing of statins within Wales in an auditable and demonstrable manner. The group agreed the need for national guidance supported by a sound evidence-base, and Mr Jamie Hayes confirmed that WeMeReC would consider the scope of an educational package on statin prescribing. The group discussed communication and effective ways of disseminating information and engaging GPs. It was agreed that WMP would take forward the issue of working with the Welsh Medicine Information Service and possible collaboration with a group within NPHS who are currently working on audit tools. Mr Stuart Evans confirmed he had recently been involved in the preparation of guidelines on statin prescribing, and it was agreed that he and Dr Jeremy Black should collaborate outside the meeting to discuss development of the AWPAG guidelines.

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8 ***AWPAG work programme***

The Chairman invited Mrs Nicola John to lead discussions. She informed the group that responses to the request for work priorities had been received from the South East Wales, North Wales and Mid & West Wales regional adviser groups. The one priority common to the three groups was shared-care. Mrs John stated that in order to meet the expectations of the group a formal work programme should be developed, the priorities of which should be re-visited. Mrs Carolyn Poulter confirmed that guidance on near patient testing was currently being developed by Welsh Assembly Government.

The group agreed the most effective way forward would be to allocate leads from amongst the group and develop issues outside of the meeting. The following priorities leads were identified.

- Shared care protocols (WMP)
- Horizon scanning of “low” cost potentially high volume drugs (WMP)
- Influence & implementation strategies – more effectively changing practice (Northern Wales Advisers)
- Centralised purchasing of non-drugs (dressings, feeds, appliances & reagent/test strips) (North Wales Advisers)
- Standards for dispensing practices (not allocated - on hold at present)
- Prescribing indicators (with referenced materials) (Mid & West Wales Advisers)
- Prescribing incentive schemes (nominated working group)
- Implementation of Townsend recommendations (Mid & West Wales Advisers)
- Organizing a prescribing advisers conference open to all advisers (medics, pharmacists & medicines management) (South East Advisers)
- Development of principles for using controlled drugs (not allocated)

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Feedback from AWPAG Prescribing Incentive Scheme Working Group

The Chairman invited Dr Jeremy Black to update the group of feedback from the prescribing incentive scheme working group. A copy of this presentation will be made available with the minutes. Dr Black informed members that the working group had not met, but had exchanged views and ideas by email. He invited discussion amongst the group regarding the cost and quality element of the schemes. The discussions highlighted the need for budget setting methodologies for development by AWPAG to be available to practices across Wales. It was important that practices feel ownership of their budgets for any prescribing incentive schemes to work.

The group agreed that the timescale precluded the production of guidelines for April 2004/2005 and it was hoped that LHBs would devise their own prescribing incentive scheme for 2004/2005. It was suggested that an outline structure could be put forward to AWMSG and a 3-year programme developed for 2005/2006 by the working group. The group agreed that the scheme should consist of three components:

- Audit
- Education & training
- Cost-effective, local flexibility indicators (the quality indicator element has cost-effectiveness built into the basket)

**working
group**

The working group agreed to meet to develop this issue. This group will consist of:

- Mr William Duffield
- Mrs Judith Vincent
- Mr Paul Gimson
- Mr Jamie Hayes
- Dr Jeremy Black
- Mrs Karen Samuels

The following members also agreed to join the working group.

- Mrs Nicola John
- Mrs Delyth Simons

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Code of conduct / sponsorship – consideration of re-draft

Members were asked to consider the document *Guidance for Partnership Working between NHS Organisations, Primary Care Contractors and the Commercial Sector in Wales* (Enclosure 4). It was acknowledged that AWMSG had tasked the NHS-Industry Forum to take the lead on this document, however comments from AWPAG members had been considered and taken on board in the preparation of the re-draft. The chairman invited members to comment:

Page 1 para 3: Reference to NHS-Industry Forum (NHSIF) should be replaced with AWMSG

Page 3 point 10, final bullet point – this paragraph should be copied into page 5 point 20.

Page 18 point E: The words “*in agreement with LHB*” should be incorporated.

The sentence “all expenses incurred should be what the individual would normally expect to pay” should be included.

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These comments will be passed on to NHSIF by the WMP secretariat.

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Low level prescribing indicators for implementation April 2004

The Chairman invited Mrs Delyth Simons to address the group. Mrs Simons expressed her thanks to all the prescribing advisers who had forwarded information required for the preparation of Enclosure 5. The group was asked to consider whether there was a need to change the indicators currently provided by Health Solutions Wales? If so, what indicators should be added or what should be removed. Members agreed that the indicators should be easily accessible, evidence-based and used as a discussion point within the practice. There was general discussion over the issue and Mrs Simons asked for comments to be forwarded to her by email.

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High level prescribing indicators / DDDs

The Chairman reported that the high level indicators agreed by AWMSG had been included in the SaFF round for 2004/2005. He stated there was a need for AWPAG to feel ownership of the national indicators, linking to incentive schemes, and develop these for 2005/2006. It was agreed that the prescribing incentive scheme working group should also progress the issue of indicators. There was general discussion on the appropriate measurement and it was suggested that Health Solutions Wales could run the indicators as STAR-PU's and ASTRO-PU's in parallel. It was agreed that AWPAG would recommend that Health Solutions Wales be provided with professional support, and this recommendation concurs with one of the key recommendations of the Townsend Group.

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Core AWPAG development of All-Wales Drug List

Professor Philip Routledge informed the group that AWMSG had agreed that AWPAG should explore the development of an All-Wales Drug List. He confirmed that WMP would collect the formularies currently in existence and

	also informed the group that Professor David Lawson of the Scottish Medicines Consortium had agreed to come to Wales for a meeting with representatives of Medicines & Therapeutics Committees in Wales to share his experiences. WMP would be inviting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the AWMSG sub-groups to attend this meeting. He advised members that a questionnaire had been circulated amongst Chairs and Secretaries and they had been asked to comment on work priorities for AWMSG and WMP. It was acknowledged there was a need for both primary and secondary care input.	WMP
14	<p><i>NPC Contract</i></p> <p>Mr Jamie Hayes reported that both he and Professor Philip Routledge would be meeting with the NPC during January to discuss future working relations between the NPC and Wales. Mr Hayes asked members to email him their views and comments.</p>	WMP
15	<p><i>Any other business</i></p> <p>It was agreed that representatives of the regional pharmacy advisers be invited to observe the AWPAG meetings when located in their particular region.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for a volunteer to represent AWPAG on the Medicines Management Committee Expert Panel. Mrs Judith Vincent agreed.</p> <p>At its previous meeting the Group had highlighted factors influencing prescribing behaviour and incentive schemes. It was stated in the minutes that the Group would advise that all LHB prescribing support teams should include GP prescribing leads with well defined roles and responsibilities. The general feeling amongst the group was that this concept required further discussion at the next AWPAG meeting and WMP agreed to prepare a paper to progress this issue.</p>	WMP
10	<p><i>Next meeting</i></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th April at 9.30 am. Venue details will follow.</p>	