

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th JULY 2004 AT 9.30 AM At the Plas Hyfryd Hotel, Narberth, Pembrokeshire

Members

Dr Thomas Lau (Chairman)
Mrs Nicola John (Vice Chair)
Dr Mark Daniels
Dr Charlie Danino
Mr William Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Mr Paul Gimson
Dr Jonathan Jones
Dr Tessa Lewis
Mrs Delyth Simons
Mr John Terry
Mrs Judith Vincent

In attendance

Mrs Sian James (Welsh Assembly Government)
Miss Anne Hinchliffe (Welsh Assembly Government)
Miss Sian Evans (Welsh Assembly Government) *present for agenda items 1-6*
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Professor Philip Routledge (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Action

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) and introduced the guests, Miss Anne Hinchliffe and Miss Sian Evans from Welsh Assembly Government, and Dr Charlie Danino, deputy South West GP member.

2 Apologies

Dr Robert Bracchi
Dr Jeremy Black
Dr Martin Duerden
Dr Stephen Griffiths
Dr Brian Hawkins
Mr Ken Nazareth
Miss Tracy Parry
Dr Gillian Todd
Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells

3 ***Declarations of interest***

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda. There were none.

4 ***Minutes of previous meeting***

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 28th April 2004 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

5 ***Matters arising***

The Chairman confirmed that Dr Mark Daniels had been co-opted at the AWPAG January 2004 meeting and the appropriate amendment to the AWPAG constitution would be made by the representative from Welsh Assembly Government in conjunction with the AWMSG Steering Committee.

SJ

6 ***Presentation: Miss Sian Evans, Medicines Management Collaborative***

The Chairman invited Miss Evans to present Enclosure 2 to the group. Miss Evans summarised the development, delivery, aims and goals of the Medicines Management collaborative – Wales programme. It was agreed that links should be established and maintained with the programme and Miss Evans agreed to provide regular updates to AWPAG in the future.

7 ***Supplementary Prescribing – update***

The Chairman invited Miss Hinchliffe to present Enclosure 3 to the group. Miss Hinchliffe provided a progress report on supplementary prescribing and confirmed that up to date information could be accessed on the AWMSG website. The Chairman asked for clarification that supplementary prescribers would be adequately insured, and was informed that they were responsible for informing their insurers. The group also asked whether Health Solutions Wales would be able to identify the supplementary prescriber and Miss Hinchliffe confirmed that the prescriber would be identified, although there may be a problem if one independent prescriber worked out of more than one practice. The group were informed that there were outstanding software issues, but it was hoped that solutions to current problems could be overcome in the future. Members were also informed that the Department of Health were in the process of preparing a consultation paper on independent prescribers due to be released at the end of 2004. There was concern that all applicants should have equal access to the course, and Miss Hinchliffe confirmed that an invitation for applications for the second cohort would be posted on the AWMSG website. A comment was made for adequate feedback to Heads of Medicines and Pharmacy Management. Concern was expressed that there had been lack of direction from Welsh Assembly Government with regard to the preparation of course material and Miss Hinchliffe reiterated that the aim had been commonality.

8 ***Appointments***

The Chairman invited Mrs Sian James from Welsh Assembly Government to present Enclosure 4. Mrs James asked members to note the current AWPAG membership and asked for consideration of nominations for the vacant positions. Mrs James confirmed that the Minister had relinquished the responsibility to change the AWPAG constitution to the AWMSG Steering Group and members asked for clarification of their role. The Group asked for clarification of the status of membership for AWPAG as to whether members acted on behalf of the representative body or as an individual. Mrs Simons

confirmed that Mr Don Wilkes had resigned as deputy South West Pharmacist and Cath Haines had been nominated as the replacement. Mrs James agreed to follow this up and report back at the next meeting. Mrs Lang confirmed that Dr Gill Todd and Dr Stephen Griffiths had been asked whether they wished to resign as they had not attended three consecutive meetings. Dr Todd and Dr Griffiths had not wished to resign, but it was noted that since January 2004, Dr Charlie Danino had been appointed as deputy and that Dr Mark Daniels had been co-opted as a member. The group asked for clarification of the role of members and Sian James agreed to prepare a paper for consideration at the next meeting.

SJ

9 **WAG & AWMSG Finance – Steer from AWPAG**

The Chairman asked members to draw together a list of questions relating to the financial aspects of prescribing to put to Dr Christine Daws, Director of Resource Directorate at Welsh Assembly Government who will be attending the next AWMSG meeting in December 2004. There was general discussion over the need for a robust and timely allocation formula. The group felt the most constructive way forward would be to report back to their regional groups and submit pertinent questions to WMP by Friday, 30th July 2004.

All

10 **Incentive Scheme – verbal update**

In the absence of Dr Jeremy Black, lead of the Prescribing Incentive Scheme working group, the Chairman invited Mr Jamie Hayes to present a verbal update on developments following a meeting of the working party on Monday, 28th June. Mr Hayes confirmed membership of the group as follows:

- Dr Jeremy Black (lead)
- Dr Mark Daniels
- Mr William Duffield (unable to attend meeting on 28/06/04)
- Mr Paul Gimson (unable to attend meeting on 28/06/04)
- Mr Jamie Hayes
- Mrs Nicola John
- Mrs Karen Samuels (unable to attend meeting on 28/07/04)
- Mrs Delyth Simons
- Mrs Judith Vincent

Mr Rob Holcombe, deputy AWMSG LHB Finance Director, had also attended the meeting.

Mr Hayes reported that progress had been made and that Dr Black was in the process of preparing a document to bring to the AWPAG meeting in October 2004. The group had discussed the constituent components of the PIS and the Chair had stressed the need that the All Wales PIS will need to be able to demonstrate its cost effectiveness. The group considered that the scheme should consist of indicators, both high and low level, which could have national and local providers and a national audit. The group agreed that for audit to demonstrate a successful change in prescribing behaviour a two-year rolling programme would be preferred, and the chosen topic was clopidogrel prescribing.

The Chair informed the group that a fact finding meeting with Mr. John Sweeney of WAG was set up to discuss the PIS and its implementation

process in Wales.

It was decided that since the PIS-subgroup had not finalised the details of the scheme, the meeting with Mr. Sweeney should be deferred.

11 ***Shared care protocols – verbal update***

Mrs Samuels informed that group that response to the request for examples of shared care protocols had been limited. The group was asked to consider whether they wished WMP to develop a new template for the five shared-care protocols included in the GMS contract and ratify core content to badge as AWPAG ratified shared care protocols, or whether WMP should collate examples of existing shared care protocols and post on the website so that information could be adopted and agreed on a regional basis. It was agreed that the information should be shared between commissioning groups and that examples of existing protocols would be sufficient. Members were asked to feed back the information to the regional groups and submit examples to WMP. Mrs Nicola John indicated that Health Commission Wales (HCW) had approached the committee for help with shared care guidelines for the drugs used in the conditions it commissions for. Members indicated that they would be happy to work with HCW, but that funding issues had to be resolved first.

All

12 ***All Wales Statin Guidance***

Mr Stuart Evans confirmed that following discussion at the AWMSG June meeting, the All Wales Statin Guidance had been sent out for consultation by WMP. Mr Evans agreed to amend the document. The group agreed there was no need for a second consultation and the amended document should be sent to members for final comment before dissemination.

SE

All Wales Antiplatelet Guidance

Mr Evans informed the group that NICE had delayed issuing their guidance until October/November. WMP had circulated the guidance for specialist comment and Mr Evans confirmed there would be minor changes to be made before the document went back to AWMSG for discussion. Members felt that a message should be taken back to AWMSG that there should be adequate resourcing of support and recompense to LHBs. Mr Evans agreed to email the amended document to members for final comment before submission to AWMSG at their September meeting.

SE

13 ***NPC Contract – verbal update***

Mr Hayes informed the group that no progress had been made since the previous meeting. He confirmed that work had been on-going behind the scenes but he was awaiting official confirmation to proceed by Welsh Assembly Government. The group discussed the need for co-ordination of implementation.

14 ***Low Level Prescribing indicators***

Mrs Delyth Simons confirmed that she was working towards presenting a paper on low level prescribing indicators at the next AWPAG meeting, to tie in with the prescribing incentive scheme, for presentation to AWMSG at their meeting in December 2004.

DS

15 ***Appraisal Process changes***

Professor Philip Routledge presented Enclosure 5, proposed changes to the

- AWMSG appraisal process. He confirmed that AWMSG had supported the proposals at their meeting in June 2004, and he was keen to seek the views of AWPAG members. Each member was asked to comment and it was acknowledged there would be strategic issues and service/resource implications. However, there was unanimous agreement to support and endorse the proposals. Professor Routledge confirmed that the comments would be taken back to the AWMSG Chairman and it was proposed that a meeting be arranged with Mrs Anne Lloyd, Director of NHS Wales to progress the issue. WMP
- 16 ***Influence & Implementation Strategies – more effectively changing practice***
Mr Bill Duffield presented enclosure 6, a discussion paper on implementing guidance and influencing prescribing practice. Members agreed there was a need for a strategy for issuing guidance comprising of separate components and felt that a multi-faceted approach would be most successful. Members agreed it should be worked into the AWPAG/AWMSG work strategy to raise the profile and influence prescribing practice. It was suggested that members should submit examples of good practice to WMP to marry with the paper and bring back to AWPAG in October for further discussion. Mr Duffield agreed to work with WMP to progress the issue. WD/
WMP
- 17 ***Organization of Prescribing Advisers Conference***
Mr Paul Gimson was asked to present an update on arrangements for a prescribing advisers conference as discussed at the January 2004 meeting. Mr Gimson informed the group that he had made arrangements for a Medicines Management conference at Gwbert 22nd/23rd November consisting of short informal sessions with the aim of sharing good practice. Members acknowledged the hard work that had gone into making these arrangements to date, but asked that the remit be broadened to include chairs and secretaries of M&TCs, chief pharmacists, interface pharmacists, trust and LHB medical directors, prescribing advisers, representatives from the National Public Health Service and secondary care. A suggestion was made a conference committee should be set up to organise future conferences. PG
- 18 ***Work Strategy – verbal update***
Mrs Nicola John confirmed that she had met with Professor Philip Routledge to progress the development of an over-arching strategy and a paper would be prepared for discussion at the next AWPAG meeting in October 2004. Professor Routledge confirmed that he had attended the Bro Morgannwg M&TC meeting in June and had made arrangements to visit as many committees as possible over the next few months. The purpose of this exercise is to establish good communication links with the committees, to feedback any comments to WMP/AWMSG and establish the views of the service to the proposal to change the appraisal of new medicines in NHS Wales. NJ/
WMP
- 19 ***Any other business***
The Chairman informed members that unless expenses are submitted to WMP within a three-month period, they would not be processed by Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust. All claims will only be reimbursed if accompanied by the relevant receipts / invoices.

Dr Tessa Lewis asked that the document on GP prescribing leads be

emailed to members. Mrs Lang confirmed that the document has been posted on the AWMSG website under “communication” but, due to time constraints, it had not been possible to take the paper back to the AWMSG June 2004 meeting.

WMP

Mr Bill Duffield enquired whether, in light of new evidence, AWPAG could review and update, at an all-Wales level, the advice issued by NICE on Cox 2s and make a recommendation to AWMSG to issue interim advice prior to the NICE review. Professor Routledge agreed to seek clarification from the AWMSG Steering Group and report back to the group.

WMP

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13th October 2004 at the Quality Hotel, Cardiff commencing 9.30 am.