

# **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP**

### **Members**

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Ms Nuala Brennan	National Public Health Service Wales
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Susanna Jacks	GP South Wales
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Jenny Pugh-Jones	Pharmacist Mid & West Wales
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr David Webb	Dr David Webb, Secondary Care Consultant

### **In attendance**

Mrs Andrea Clarke (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre)  
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre) (Welsh Medicines Partnership)  
Mrs Kath Haines (Welsh Medicines Partnership)  
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

### **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
NLIAH	National Leadership & Innovation Agency for Healthcare
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 and introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked members for nominating her as Chair. It was reported that Mr William Duffield, North Wales Pharmacist representative, had been nominated as Vice Chair. Members unanimously supported the nomination.

**2. Apologies**

Dr Mark Daniels, GP South West Wales  
 Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professions eligible to prescribe  
 Mr Stuart Evans, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales  
 Mr Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist North Wales  
 Mrs Louise Howard-Baker, Pharmacist North Wales  
 Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales  
 Mrs Kath Hier, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe  
 Dr Ashok Rayani, GP Mid and South West Wales  
 Mrs Delyth Simons, Pharmacist Mid & West Wales  
 Mr John Terry, Secondary care pharmacist

**Apologies not received:**

Dr Rob Bracchi, GP South Wales  
 Dr Stephen Lennox, Secondary Care Consultant

**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. The Chair clarified that section 7 the draft minutes should reflect that HoPMMs had been represented on the incentive scheme audit subgroup and that further HoPMM advice was needed to finalise the audit.

**Matters arising**

**Prescribing indicator working group**

It was reported that Andrea Dahlgren had been nominated to represent the interface pharmacists on the indicator working group.

**Consultation on rare diseases**

Mrs Lang informed the Group that AWMSG had submitted a response to this consultation. Members requested sight of the response.

**ACTION**

**WMP to email a copy of the consultation response to all members**

### **Methotrexate**

The issue of methotrexate prescribing had been raised at the previous AWPAG meeting and remained outstanding. Members had expressed concern at the quantities of tablets per script of methotrexate and identified a need to encourage regions to review prescribing control charts. It was suggested that AWPAG should consider levels of prescribing in Trusts across Wales.

#### **ACTION**

**Nuala Brennan agreed to provide the Chair with data to be considered by the interface pharmacists and AWPAG at their next meeting**

### **Steroid cards**

The Chair provided the background to this issue on 'when to issue a steroid card' and informed members of the suggestion that the guidance be used as an appendix within the summary of the respiratory chapter review, as an example of good practice within Gwent. Members agreed to include the document within the review and did not advise any amendments to the detail of the guidance.

### **Prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (epo) in secondary care**

Dr Webb confirmed that this issue remained under discussion by the Renal Network led by Dr Richard Moore. Central procurement is under consideration with increased use of renal specialist nurses. Dr Webb will clarify with the Renal Network that shared care protocols will therefore not be necessary.

### **Prescribing strategy**

Mrs Lang confirmed that the strategy document had been amended to take on board comments received and the revised document will be presented to AWMSG at their meeting tomorrow. Mrs Lang confirmed that an updated copy could be provided electronically to members on request.

### **Primary Care Quality Forum (PCQF)**

The Chair informed members that Laura Beer, Team Lead, Primary Care Quality and Information Service, NPHS and invited a nomination from the HoPMMS to provide the link between AWPAG and the Primary Care Quality Forum.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair agreed to forward the terms of reference of the PCQF & seek a nomination from Susan Murphy, Chair of the HoPMMS**

## **5. Prescribing reviews**

The Chair invited Mrs Andrea Clarke to update members in relation to the prescribing reviews of BNF chapter. Mrs Clarke confirmed that the respiratory chapter had been circulated to members for comment prior to the AWPAG meeting. Members agreed that in future they would confirm receipt of the chapters when circulated. Mrs Clarke confirmed that following discussions at AWPAG the chapter will be presented to NHSIF for comment. Members were informed that the respiratory chapter will be presented to AWMSG in June 2008.

Mrs Clarke asked members to agree the issues to be highlighted within the endocrine chapter update which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The key messages were agreed – glitizones, the place of bisphosphonates in the primary prevention of fractures and the use of metformin when renal function is impaired. The

chapter review also highlighted the use of special formulations and it was agreed to agenda this issue at the July AWPAG meeting.

It was confirmed that the cardiovascular chapter is in the process of being updated by the Mid & West Wales group and will be discussed at the next AWPAG meeting in July. Mr Duffield agreed to update the gastrointestinal chapter.

**ACTION**

**WeMeReC to disseminate the respiratory chapter in light of comments received from AWPAG and NHSIF prior to it being presented to AWMSG**

**Mid & West Wales region to complete the cardiovascular chapter update for discussion at July AWPAG meeting**

**Bill Duffield to update the gastrointestinal chapter for discussion at July AWPAG meeting**

**Judith Vincent to prepare a paper on the prescribing of special formulations for discussion at the next AWPAG meeting**

6. **Thromboprophylaxis to prevent venous thromboembolism in hospitalized patients**  
The Chair provided the background to a paper prepared by Dr Hamsaraj Shetty, Consultant Physician at the University Hospital of Wales who sought advice on mechanisms by which Welsh hospitals can ensure effective implementation of thromboprophylaxis programmes for hospitalized patients. Following the previous AWPAG meeting WMP had been tasked with emailing a questionnaire to Trusts in Wales to assess the current position. The questionnaire returns were provided for comment and the geographic incompleteness of the questionnaire returns was noted. AWPAG members supported the proposal that there is a need to develop mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of evidence based guidelines in Wales to prevent VTE in hospitalised patients.

**ACTION**

**Chair to feedback support for implementation of guidance in this area to AWMSG**

7. **Prescribing incentive scheme**

**Prescribing incentive scheme questionnaire feedback**

The Chair thanked Mr Duffield for collating the questionnaire feedback. The survey provides a comprehensive overview of prescribing incentive schemes operating in Wales. Members suggested that a paper, highlighting the key messages, be prepared to inform the subsequent development of the scheme and AWMSG.

**ACTION**

**Bill Duffield agreed to produce a paper for the next AWPAG meeting**

**Anticoagulation audit**

The Chair thanked Dr Jacks and Mr Duffield for their substantial input into the development of the anticoagulation audit since the last meeting and invited members to comment on the latest version. Minor amendments were suggested. It was agreed that the document will be disseminated to the Service via the HoPMMs and a link will be emailed with the AWMSG minutes.

**ACTION**

**Working group to finalize document and provide to WMP**

**WMP to post the document on the AWMSG website and inform the Service via email**

#### **Future audit**

Due to time constraints potential future audits were not considered and will be deferred until the next meeting when the incentive scheme is reviewed.

#### **ACTION**

**WMP to include on next meeting agenda**

#### **Prescribing incentives in secondary care**

Dr Webb informed members that a discussion paper had been passed to Dr Bruce Ferguson to be presented to AWMSG. There was uncertainty over the status of the paper and Dr Webb agreed to contact Dr Ferguson.

#### **ACTION**

**David Webb to contact Dr Ferguson**

**WMP to check minutes of recent AWMSG meetings**

### **8. Prescribing Indicators update**

#### **National indicators**

Mrs Vincent provided the background to the discussions on behalf of Louise Howard Baker and confirmed the view of the indicator working group that the national indicators agreed for 2008/2009 should run for 2009/2010 so that their benefits could be assessed. There was discussion over the use of the inappropriate generic indicator and whether it would be sufficiently relevant in 2009/10 or whether there was opportunity to replace it. It was agreed that the indicator subgroup would consider suggestions provided by the service for a new indicator which is readily measurable. The indicators for 2009/10 will be finalised at the July AWPAG meeting.

#### **ACTION**

**Invite suggestions from AWMSG and professional colleagues, to be e-mailed to WMP by 30 April 2008**

#### **Local comparators**

The Chair invited Mrs Haines to provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Welsh Medicines Partnership in relation to the validation of the local comparators. It was suggested that HSW produce a statement for their website to clarify the role of the local comparator. It was agreed that some of the local comparators are no longer useful measures and that the list needs reviewing. LHBs should be aware that the drugs contained within each basket will need updating and this may affect the accuracy of local comparator data currently available.

#### **ACTION**

**WMP to email Sue Murphy as Chair of HoPMMs, inviting review of the list of local comparators**

**WMP to liaise with Health Solutions Wales when the updated list is available.**

**Indicator working group to produce a statement in relation to the local comparators to provide to HSW**

### **9. Shared care update**

### **Amiodarone**

The Chair confirmed that the Welsh Cardiovascular Society had not provided written concerns as to why amiodarone should not be shared care. Members were informed that the Welsh Cardiovascular Society is due to meet in early May and it was hoped that WMP would have the opportunity to attend.

### **Other shared care issues**

Dr Lewis informed members that the AWMSG shared care criteria could be amended to include the directions outlined in section 4 Summary of Product Characteristics. This had been included when the shared care subgroup considered the most appropriate place of prescribing but were not an integral part of the AWMSG criteria.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair to work with WMP to amend the AWMSG shared care criteria and re-issue the document via the interface pharmacists group**

### **10. Report on Interface Pharmacists meeting**

The draft minutes of the January meeting of the interface pharmacists were provided to members for comment. No issues were raised.

### **11. Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit**

Mrs Haines updated members of developments in relation to the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit, made reference to the enclosure and invited comments. The potential overlap with other organisations was noted. The Chair thanked Mrs Haines for clarifying the current situation and concluded the discussion. Mrs Haines left the meeting.

### **12. MHRA Consultation:**

#### **Concept paper on the review of the regulation of unlicensed medicines**

The Chair invited members to comment on the preliminary consultation.

Mrs Vincent and Mr Nazareth left the meeting.

The Chair agreed to take the comments of the group to the AWMSG Steering Committee.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair to take comments of group back to AWMSG Steering Committee**

### **13. Scriptswitch**

No paper had been provided for discussion. It was agreed that the role of Scriptswitch will be deferred until the next meeting when a review of background information will be considered by the Group.

#### **ACTION**

**Add to agenda of next AWPAG meeting**

**WD to collate information and provide to WMP**

### **14. Biosimilar medicines**

The Chair provided the background to the agenda item and opened the discussion. It was clarified that any formal response provided by AWPAG would inform AWMSG. It was agreed that the Chair would seek advice from the Steering Committee as to whether a formal response by the sub-group is required.

**ACTION**

**Chair to seek the views of the AWMSG Steering Committee**

**15. Update on Medusa**

The Chair welcomed Mr Neil Jenkins from Health Solutions Wales and invited him to present the enclosure 'Update on Medusa'. Mr Jenkins explained the key issues outlined in the paper and invited questions.

**16. NHSIF draft minutes January 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft minutes of the meeting held in January 2008. No issues were raised.

**17. NHSIF draft agenda April 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft agenda for the April 2008 meeting. No issues were raised.

**18. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting December 2007**

The Chair drew members' attention to the AWMSG draft minutes of the meeting held in February 2008. No issues were raised.

**19. Any other business**

**Perindopril**

The Chair was asked to draw members' attention to the National Electronic Library of Medicine update in relation to branded perindopril.

**Patient information leaflets : Anticoagulation for dental patients**

HoPMMs had questioned the availability of this NPSA leaflet to Welsh patients. It is available in England and advises patients on what they should do with their oral anticoagulation when attending the dentist. It was agreed that the leaflet is useful and should be available in the Yellow packs.

**ACTION**

**Chair to clarify availability of leaflet with WAG**

**Future agenda item**

The Chair invited members to inform WMP of any future agenda item

**20. Date and time of future meetings:**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008, The Hill Abergavenny**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008, The Hill Abergavenny**