

# **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006 COMMENCING 10.30AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP**

### **Members**

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Debbie Davies	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Miss Kath Haines	Deputy Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP South East Wales
Mr Berwyn Owen	Pharmacist North Wales
Dr Mark Daniels	GP South West Wales
Mr William Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
<b>Mrs Nicola John (Chair)</b>	<b>NPHS Representative</b>
Dr Stephen Lennox	Secondary Care Consultant
Dr Tessa Lewis (Vice Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist South West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

### **In attendance**

Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership / WeMeReC)  
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)  
Mrs Carolyn Poulter (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, introduction & personalia**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Dr Rob Bracchi (GP South represented by Dr Susanna Jacks)

Dr Martin Duerden (GP North Wales)

Mrs Katherine Hier (Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales)

Dr Jonathan Jones (GP North 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, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

**Matters arising:**

**Proposed audit to be included in prescribing incentive scheme for 2007**

Mrs John welcomed Mr Jamie Hayes and asked him to clarify the role of WeMeReC with regard to any proposed audit in relation to the prescribing incentive scheme. Mr Hayes confirmed that the audit for the existing prescribing incentive scheme is clopidogrel that had been developed through AWPAG and adapted by WMP from an example of good practice provided by the mid & west region. Mr Hayes confirmed it had been agreed by AWPAG at a previous meeting that this audit should run for a period of two years. Mr Hayes suggested two options – that the existing audit could continue for a further period, or that the Group should identify another area. Mr Hayes reported that WeMeReC involvement in the current audit had been minimal.

It was agreed that the clopidogrel audit should continue to be available, and a new audit be identified and developed through the prescribing incentive scheme working group. Members agreed that an audit of high dose inhaled corticosteroids – a primary and secondary care issue – would be a particularly good topic for audit. Members were asked to nominate appropriate individuals to participate in the working group and aim for a paper to come back to AWPAG in January 2007.

**ACTION**

- Members to seek nominations and inform the Chair/WMP outside of the meeting
- The PIS working group to meet and prepare a paper to be presented to AWPAG in January 2007

### **Glucose testing / Provisional All Wales Diabetes Guidelines**

The Chair asked members to comment on Enclosure 2, a pre-consultation document that has been sent out by Welsh Assembly Government for early comment prior to consultation. Mr Nazareth confirmed there were no controversial recommendations or any inconsistencies in relation to national evidence currently available. Members noted there is a need for referencing.

There was discussion over the cholesterol target and inconsistency with NICE guidance in relation to glitazones. A comment was made that there is no mention of multi-agency support and the role of Community Pharmacy Wales, or sufficient emphasis on the effects of smoking and no reference to CSM warnings.

#### **ACTION**

**- WAG representative to clarify the consultation process and report back to AWPAG in January 2007**

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

Mrs Poulter confirmed that a meeting has been arranged on 6 November between representatives of Welsh Assembly Government, GPC Wales, CPW and the Director of Primary Care to discuss how best to take forward this priority. From the meeting it is hoped that a multi-disciplinary group will be set up to progress the issues. Mrs Poulter confirmed that Mrs Nicola John had been invited to attend this meeting and it is hoped that AWPAG will be involved in nominating individuals to participate in any further developments.

#### **ACTION**

**- Mrs John to represent AWPAG at the meeting on 6 November**

### **Destruction of controlled waste**

The Chair confirmed the Steering Committee decision that the issue of destruction of controlled waste was being considered by another professional group and this was not a priority for the work programme of AWPAG.

### **Ibuprofen prescribing in children**

Dr Lewis confirmed that she had written to the British Association of Paediatric Nephrologists and is awaiting their response. Mrs Lang informed the Group that following the reorganisation of the Yellow Card Centre (Wales), formerly known as CSM (Wales), the centre is no longer permitted to hold or access Welsh patient data – this is now all held centrally at MHRA.

#### **ACTION**

**- Awaiting response from British Association of Paediatric Nephrologists**

### **Indicators**

Mrs John reported that AWMSG endorsed the paper presented in October 2006. Following that meeting minor changes had been incorporated to the paper and it had been submitted to Welsh Assembly Government to be included in the SAFF round for 2006/2008. The Chair asked members to note the query over the generic target rate and asked that this be addressed by the Indicator Working Group at their next meeting. It was noted that in order to provide clarity, the wording of the targets had been amended. Mrs Poulter agreed to ascertain whether the wording of the current targets (2006/2007) could also be amended. Mrs John confirmed that prescribing would be monitored on the last quarter January-March, recognising that this can't be done until June, and there will be difficulty in working out the balanced score card.

### **ACTION**

- Mrs John agreed to revisit the indicator timetable and arrange a meeting of the indicator working group
- Mrs Poulter to confirm whether the wording of the 2006/2007 targets could be amended to provide clarity to the Regional Offices

### **Prescribing audit templates**

Mrs Lang reported that the example audit templates are in the final stages of preparation for posting on the website.

### **ACTION**

- WMP to post on AWMSG website under the AWPAG section

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

Mrs Lang reported that a letter has been received from Dr Tony Jewell, Chief Medical Officer, confirming that AWMSG will remain outside the Wales Centre for Health.

### **Statin template review**

Mrs Lang reported that Professor Philip Routledge had met with the Cardiac Networks in an effort to ensure consistency of advice in updating the template for the prescribing of statins.

### **ACTION**

- WMP to work with Cardiac Network to ensure consistency of advice in updating the template for the prescribing of statins

### **Sip feeds**

Mrs Lang reported that the sip feeds document is in the final stages of editing and will be disseminated electronically by WMP.

### **ACTION**

- WMP to complete editorial process and disseminate information electronically

### **Broadening of AWMSG appraisal process – WMP bid to Welsh Assembly**

Mrs Lang confirmed that confirmation of acceptance of the bid to broaden the appraisal process has been received from Welsh Assembly Government. Mrs John outlined changes to the current appraisal structure to allow for the increased appraisals from 8 to 32. It was noted that a new sub-group would be formed, the New Medicines Group (NMG), that would produce draft recommendations for AWMSG. Nominations for membership to the NMG would be sought by WMP in the near future. It is anticipated that the new appraisal process will commence in April 2007.

### **ACTION**

- WMP to prepare discussion document outlining proposed changes to the appraisal process for AWMSG in December 2006

## **5. Sharing good prescribing practice**

The Chair thanked Mrs Delyth Simons of the Mid and West Wales regional pharmacists who, in collaboration with colleagues, had prepared prescribing reviews of BNF chapters 3 and 4. Mrs Simons invited comments from the Group on the content of the papers.

BNF Chapter 3: Respiratory System – A prescribing review

BNF Chapter 4: Central Nervous System - A prescribing review

Dr Lewis asked for clarification of the target audience. Mrs John confirmed that the reviews should drive the work programme of AWPAG and bring any issues to the attention of AWMSG. Mrs Simons noted the comments and agreed to update the paper in light of the discussions. It was agreed that the prescribing reviews should be presented to AWMSG at a future meeting, and that any messages picked up by the reviews should be included in AWPAG's recommendations to AWMSG.

**ACTION**

- Mrs Simons to update the papers to incorporate members' comments
- WMP to proof read and edit for presentation to AWMSG at a future meeting
- South East region to prepare prescribing reviews of BNF chapters 5 and 6 for the next AWPAG meeting in January 2007

**6. Update on Shared Care**

**Core All Wales Amber Drug List (Rheumatology)**

Dr Lewis reported that the core amber list recommended by AWPAG had been accepted at the AWMSG June meeting and the information had been posted on the AWMSG website.

**Tobramycin & dornase alpha**

Mrs John invited Dr Tessa Lewis to provide an overview of Enclosure 6. Dr Lewis thanked Mr Trevor Batt for his help in progressing this issue. Dr Lewis informed members that she and Mr Batt had met with the Cystic Fibrosis Centre in Cardiff (Dr Ketchell and Lucy Philpott) to discuss issues around the prescribing of tobramycin and dornase alpha. Dr Lewis invited comment from members in relation to Enclosure 6. The Group discussed problems of access to patients, monitoring requirements, and the prescribing review period and drug safety. It was suggested that a shared care template might support the appropriate use of NHS resources. Members were concerned that prescribing should coincide with the clinical monitoring and that shared care could represent unnecessary duplication of care. The majority views of members was that both drugs would be best prescribed within secondary care, although the Group recognised there are cost implications. It was felt that a mechanism is needed within Wales to address the financial issues associated with high cost low volume drugs. It was agreed that Dr Lewis would present the papers to AWMSG in December 2006 and relay the views of AWPAG. The Chair confirmed that AWPAG recommend that the Directors of Finance should address the financial implications.

**ACTION**

- Dr Lewis to relay views of AWPAG and seek the views of AWMSG

**Amiodarone**

Dr Lewis provided the background to enclosure 7 and invited comments. There was discussion over the recommended daily maintenance dose. The Chair asked members to address the strategic issues rather than comment on the detail.

It was agreed that AWPAG should recommend to AWMSG that the prescribing should only be transferred from secondary care to primary care once the patient is taking a maintenance dose.

It was agreed that AWPAG support the development of shared care guidelines.

Dr Tessa Lewis agreed to amend the document in light of the discussion and draft a shared care protocol drawing on examples currently available. Dr Lewis informed members that she had been invited to address the cardiologists at their next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Mrs John reported that concern had previously been expressed by members of AWPAG over the prescribing of erythropoietins. It was felt that this issue needs to be addressed because of the most appropriate place for prescribing in terms of clinical responsibility for these drugs is secondary care, and noted that substantial financial savings that could potentially be made if this can be organised. It was suggested that AWPAG could provide the clinical background to support the understanding of the issues around the prescribing of epos. It was agreed that AWPAG should seek the views of AWMSG in relation to developing this area of work, and recommend that Directors of Finance are asked to agree the financial issues.

**ACTION**

**– Dr Lewis to incorporate AWPAG comments into the paper to be taken to AWMSG in December 2006**

**7 Guidance on when to issue a steroid card**

The Chair invited Mr Trevor Batt to provide the background to enclosure 8. The Chair invited the views of members of the Group. Dr Jacks asked whether this could be included as part of the audit discussed under item 4, audit for the prescribing incentive scheme. It was noted that standard and high doses for children are set out in the Paediatric BNF. There was general discussion and it was agreed that AWPAG endorse the paper and seek the views of AWMSG with regard to the dissemination of this good practice.

**ACTION**

**- Mr Batt to present the paper to AWMSG at a future meeting  
- WMP to add to the agenda of a future AWMSG meeting**

**8. Prescribing of topical corticosteroid preparations**

Dr Duerden was not in attendance to present the paper to the Group. Members endorsed the paper and agreed that it should be presented to AWMSG at a future meeting.

**ACTION**

**- WMP to add to the agenda of a future AWMSG meeting**

**9. Prescribing strategy**

The Chair informed members of the background to the document and invited members to comment. The Chair confirmed that WMP would be receiving comments from both sub-groups and that it is anticipated that sub-group members would seek the views of the professional bodies they represent and feed the comments back to WMP. WMP representatives noted the comments and members were requested to feedback any additional comments directly back to WMP following consultation with their professional colleagues.

**10. Feedback from AWMSG October 2006 Meeting**

The draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held October 2006 were not available. It is

anticipated that the minutes will be posted on the AWMSG website during the next few days.

**11. Feedback from NHSIF July 2006 meeting and agenda for October meeting**

Mrs John confirmed that NHSIF had been asked to address the issue of 'Healthcare/Treatment at Home' and sought the views of members in relation to progressing this area of work. It was agreed to recommend that NHSIF should look to Swansea for best practice or any other LHB where guidance is available.

**ACTION**

**- Mrs John to relay the views to the AWMSG Steering Committee**

**12. Any other business**

Dr Webb identified a need to improve documentation of the use of licensed drugs in unlicensed applications. Mrs Lang informed members that a paper is being developed by Mr V'lain Fenton May through NHSIF which will address this issue.

**13. Date and time of next meeting:**

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 at the Hill Education & Conference Centre, Abergavenny and subsequently on:**

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**All meetings will commence at 10.30 am and finish at 4.00 pm**