

# **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP**

### **Members**

Mr Mike Curson	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Mark Daniels,	GP Mid and West Wales
Dr Martin Duerden	GP North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Katherine Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales
Ms Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Susanna Jacks	GP South
Mrs Nicola John (Chair)	NPHS Representative
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Dr Tessa Lewis (Vice Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani,	GP Mid and West Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Sara Thomas	Pharmacist Mid and West Wales
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

### **In attendance**

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
BNF	British National Formulary
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
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, introduction & personalia**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and congratulated Dr Martin Duerden on his appointment as Chairman of the New Medicines Group.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Mr Trevor Batt, Pharmacist South East Wales  
 Dr Robert Bracchi, GP Gwent  
 Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe  
 Mr William Duffield, Pharmacist North Wales  
 Dr Stephen Lennox, Secondary Care Consultant  
 Mr Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist North Wales  
 Mrs Delyth Simons, Pharmacist South West Wales  
 Dr Charlie Danino, GP South West Wales  
 Mrs Judith Vincent, Pharmacist South West 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 previous meeting were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

### **Matters arising**

#### **Diabetes Guidelines:**

It was reported that three representative members of AWPAG had been invited to attend a meeting arranged by the Welsh Assembly lead, Jackie Dent to discuss concerns that had been raised in relation to the recent Consultation document on Diabetes prepared by the All Wales Consensus Group. Prior to this meeting no active engagement had been sought with AWPAG, although several direct attempts had been made with the Chairman by AWPAG to input into the discussions. Members requested that any further feedback from the meeting should be made through the AWPAG Chair.

#### **ACTION**

**- WMP to contact WAG lead to request feedback**

#### **Tobramycin and dornase alfa**

The Chair invited Tessa Lewis to address the group. Dr Lewis provided a brief background and confirmed that AWMSG had endorsed AWPAG's suggestion of an opt-in approach for the prescribing of tobramycin and dornase alfa. Dr Lewis confirmed that an information note is currently being prepared by WMP and will be disseminated to the Service. The Chair thanked Dr Lewis for leading on this issue and reiterated support of this pragmatic approach.

## **ACTION**

- WMP to prepare information note and disseminate to NHS Wales

## **Updating of AWMSG template for the prescribing of statins**

Dr Martin Duerden confirmed his willingness to progress this issue.

## **ACTION**

- MD to report back to next AWPAG meeting

## **Prescribing Reviews**

The Chair informed members that professional support to progress the work on the reviews of BNF chapters had been sought to ensure that the documents were evidence-based and robust prior to circulation. Mrs Poulter confirmed that no additional resources could be provided by Welsh Assembly to support this work. However, a suggestion was made that it could fall within the remit of the proposed Prescribing Support Unit which, it is proposed, could sit within the Welsh Medicines Partnership, thereby providing professional support to AWMSG and its sub-groups. Mrs Poulter confirmed that a meeting of a working group to discuss the setting up of the Unit would be held next Monday.

## **5. Ibuprofen prescribing in children**

Dr Lewis drew members' attention to the guideline prepared by Dr Hegdy, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, and asked members whether they felt there was a need to raise awareness of the potential risk in prescribing ibuprofen to a small group of children at risk of dehydration. Members noted that the evidence to support the document was based on case reports and felt that clinicians should be asked to consider the possible risks of prescribing ibuprofen in this small group of patients. It was noted that NICE guidance on feverish illness in children is anticipated, and a suggestion was made that a graph on the trend of use of ibuprofen would be helpful. It was also noted that the document would require redrafting to take on board the comments from AWPAG and the author's permission for circulation should be sought. The Chair agreed to seek advice from the AWMSG Steering Committee as to whether this issue should be progressed through AWMSG.

Dr Mark Daniels joined the meeting.

Dr Jonathan Jones and Dr Martin Duerden joined the meeting

## **ACTION**

- WMP to add to agenda of next AWMSG Steering Committee

## **6. Prescribing incentive scheme**

### **Incentive scheme questionnaire**

The Chair provided the background to the agenda item and referred members to Enclosure 3, a questionnaire compiled by AWPAG members, led by Mr William Duffield. An additional question was suggested - Do you have GP input into the design of your scheme? It was agreed that the final questionnaire should be sent to HoPPMs. As Mr Duffield was not in attendance, the Chair agreed to seek his views outside of the meeting before progressing this item. There was discussion over incentivising secondary care. It was noted that this could fall within the prescribing strategy.

## **ACTION**

- NJ to contact Bill in relation to questionnaire

### **Steroid audit template**

The Chair drew members' attention to the inhaled steroid audit prepared by Torfaen Local Health Board and asked members to consider what AWPAG could take from it in relation to producing a second audit to complement the prescribing incentive scheme. There was general support for the concept, but concern that the example audit is too complex. A practical suggestion was made that the audit could contain core questions and additional quality questions which could be adapted to take into account local requirements.

It was agreed that a simplified set of core questions (Q1-20) would be developed.

Q20-24 to remain optional (for local agreement)

The roman numerals would be removed.

Inclusion of an additional question - Is there evidence of dose reduction?

The Chair thanked members for agreeing a pragmatic way forward and closed discussion.

#### **ACTION**

**- WMP to prepare template document**

## **7. Prescribing Indicators**

The Chairman thanked the prescribing indicator group, particularly Ms Louise Howard Baker, who had agreed to lead the group, and opened the discussion.

### **Prescribing indicators 2008/2009**

Members discussed the draft document. Mrs Howard-Baker confirmed that the working group hoped to consider potential savings. At the close of the discussion the Chair confirmed that AWPAG supported the new band of national indicators. Mrs Howard-Baker agreed to update the document in light of the discussions and submit the revised document to WMP for consideration by AWMSG at their June meeting.

#### **ACTION**

**- LHB to prepare revised document in light of discussion**

**- WMP to add to AWMSG June meeting agenda**

### **Secondary care indicators**

The Chair asked members for comment on Enclosure 5b – an update report prepared by Mr Robin Burfield of Health Solutions Wales in relation to secondary care indicators. It was noted that work is currently on-going by Health Solutions Wales in relation to the Medusa project. It is anticipated that the information should be available during the summer months. A small working party is addressing the issue of production of reports and transferring of information. The Group agreed that AWPAG should look to see how they can be used. The Chair asked whether the working group could address the issues raised within the paper. It was noted that in Swansea different computer systems are used so data cannot currently be collected.

## **8. Update on Shared Care**

### **Review of shared care criteria**

The Chair invited Dr Tessa Lewis to update the group in relation to the review of the shared care criteria. It was agreed minor changes to the wording should be made and that AWPAG recommend to AWMSG that the shared care criteria be clarified.

#### **ACTION**

- WMP to add to the agenda for the AWMSG Steering Committee

#### **Review of shared care process**

Members were asked for their views on progressing shared care issues. Dr Lewis asked members to consider the issues raised in Enclosure 7 and asked for comment on whether they felt that shared care should be continued. Mr Terry confirmed that Chief Pharmacists had agreed to liaison with interface pharmacists. Dr Lewis agreed to continue to take the lead and work with the interface pharmacists in sharing and developing shared care templates.

#### **ACTION**

- WMP to address the template format
- WMP to liaise with interface pharmacists
- DW to informally discuss with Dr Richard Moore, Chairman of the RAG, potential for shared care arrangement for the prescribing of ciclosporin

Members agreed that the GP should be informed if the patient failed to attend **for monitoring**. The GP would then be responsible for following up the patient. Recommend to AWMSG that a form of flagging on a patient's notes (e.g a sticker on the front of the notes) that the patient is being monitored as part of a shared care arrangement.

#### **ACTION**

- NJ to raise at AWMSG

#### **Amiodarone**

Dr Lewis asked for comment on the Template for shared care of amiodarone. AWPAG endorsed the shared care template for the prescribing of amiodarone for local adaptation with the inclusion of a specific statement to be inserted on the shared care agreement form and in the template – 'continuing responsibility to monitor and supervise patient whilst they are on amiodarone'. Dr M Duerden offered to review the Bridgend document with reference to the NICE guidance, giving guidance to GPs on switching from amiodarone to alternative therapy.

#### **ACTION**

- WMP to add to AWMSG agenda June 2007

### **9. Prescribing Strategy**

The Chair provided the background to Enc 9 – a revised draft strategy document prepared by Mrs Sara Thomas on behalf of the Welsh Medicines Partnership. Following a meeting with representatives from NHSIF, AWPAG and WMP the structure of the document had been changed. Mrs Thomas informed members that the strategy would encompass a high level strategic document which would be meaningful to all stakeholders, and that the overarching document would be underpinned by more tactical documents containing detailed objectives and actions/timeframes.

#### **ACTION**

- Make clear that it is advice to the Minister, who may then issue it to the service
- Seek the views of Chief Pharmacists at a later date when the tactical documents have been produced (by July 07)
- Where there are comments please feed back to either ST or AWPAG

**10. NLIAH Modernisation Assessment & Medicines Management**

The Chair introduced Dr Andrew Lewis and thanked him for agreeing to present to AWPAG on the work of the National Leadership of Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) ([www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk)).

Following the presentation, the Chair invited comment from members. ***It was agreed that*** AWPAG recommend that the English ASTRO PUs be adopted in Wales as an interim measure so that the data interpretation would be more meaningful.

Mrs Howard-Baker agreed that the indicator working group would be undertaking further work in relation to the local comparators to ensure that they are robust and evidence based.

**ACTION**

**- Indicator working group to undertake further work on the local comparators**

Mr Lewis agreed to provide members with an e-version of the Modernisation Assessment Summary Report 2005-2006.

**ACTION**

**- WMP to circulate e-version of Summary Report**

**11. NHSIF draft minutes of January 2007 meeting**

The Chair invited comments on the draft minutes of the NHSIF meeting held in January 2007 and drew attention to the request that NHSIF have sight of the draft indicator paper. Members agreed that tight timelines did not permit the sharing of this paper prior to it being presented to AWMSG and there was general agreement that it would be inappropriate to widely circulate draft documents outside of the Group.

**12. NHSIF agenda April 2007**

The Chair asked members to make note of Enclosure 11.

**14. Any other business**

**Prescribing of erythropoietin in secondary care**

Dr Webb, as AWMSG/AWPAG representative on the Renal Advisory Group, sought the support of AWPAG to progress the previous work of the Shared Care Sub-Group who, in conjunction with the Renal Advisory Group, raised issues relating to erythropoietin prescribing in secondary care. Dr Webb agreed to prepare a paper outlining the risks and benefits both clinically and financially, to be brought back to a future AWPAG meeting. Members noted the need to engage constructively with finance colleagues.

**- Dr Webb to prepare paper on risks and benefits of erythropoietin prescribing in secondary care**

**AWPAG Membership**

The Chair informed members that Dr Ashok Rayani had agreed to become the GP South West Wales member and that Dr Charlie Danino would become the deputy.

The Chair expressed her thanks to the deputy members for their close liaison and representation at the meeting.

The Chair announced that Dr Paul Buss had stepped down as AWMSG link member, as this role is now being undertaken by the Chair and two consultant representatives had been appointed to the Group.

It was recognised that those members who belonged to two AWMSG sub-groups may be

under pressure in the future, but this would be assessed at regular intervals. Members agreed that the views of a Finance Director would be helpful. A suggestion was made that the Chair seeks the views of the AWMSG Finance Director in relation to *ad hoc* finance director representation.

### **Constitution**

Mrs Lang informed members that the AWPAG Constitution will be updated in line with that of the NMG. The quorum for meetings of the Group would change to 7 voting members and the Chair/Vice Chair would be elected by the AWMSG Steering Committee. Changes to the sub-group Constitution will be approved by the AWMSG Steering Committee.

### **Multi-compliance aids**

Mrs Poulter informed members that agreement had been reached that the community pharmacists will assess patient's eligibility for additional support under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). A patient information leaflet is currently being prepared. The issue of secondary care and longer-term solutions will be addressed in the future.

### **Availability of the BNF**

AWPAG members felt strongly that this resource should be available to all prescribers in order to action the aims of the prescribing strategy.

#### **ACTION**

**- NJ to relay the concern of AWPAG to AWMSG at next meeting**

### **Meeting venue**

A suggestion was made that future AWPAG meetings be held in Cardiff so that those travelling from North Wales might take advantage of a flight from Anglesey to Cardiff at a subsidised cost of £60 return.

#### **ACTION**

**- WMP to seek the views of the Steering Committee**

### **15. Date and time of next meeting:**

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007.**

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