

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2005 COMMENCING 9.30 AM

IN THE BOARDROOM, LLANDOUGH HOSPITAL, PENARTH, SOUTH GLAMORGAN

Members

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Robert Bracchi	GP South East Wales
Dr Paul Buss	AWMSG Link
Dr Mark Daniels	GP South West Wales
Mr William Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Nicola John	NPHS representative
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales (representing GPC Wales)
Dr Tessa Lewis	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

In attendance

Mrs Susan Baboolal (Welsh Medicines Partnership representing Mr Jamie Hayes)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Professor Philip Routledge (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Key of abbreviations

AWDAC	All Wales Dietetic Advisory Committee
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
BSC	Business Services Centre
GP	General Practitioner
HSW	Health Solutions Wales
HoPMM	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
LHB	Local Health Board
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NPHS	National Public Health Service
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome

Professor Routledge welcomed members to the first meeting of the second term of AWPAG and informed the group that an election for Chairman and Vice Chairman would be undertaken by WMP prior to the commencement of formal proceedings.

The group were informed of the resignation of Dr Thomas Lau. Professor Routledge thanked Dr Lau for his hard work and commitment during the last three years.

Professor Routledge welcomed Dr Paul Buss, newly appointed as AWMSG link representative and Mrs Sue Baboolal, representing Mr Jamie Hayes. The group were informed of the appointment of Mr Berwyn Owen as Pharmacist North Wales, and Dr Tessa Lewis as GP South East Wales member (formerly deputy member).

It was announced that Mrs Nicola John had been nominated for the position of AWPAG Chairman by Mrs Delyth Simons. This nomination had been seconded by Dr Martin Duerden.

Members voted and it was unanimously agreed that Mrs Nicola John be appointed as Chairman.

It was announced that Dr Tessa Lewis had been nominated for the position of Vice Chairman. This nomination had been seconded by Dr Martin Duerden.

Members voted and it was unanimously agreed that Dr Tessa Lewis be appointed as Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies

Dr Martin Duerden
Mr Berwyn Owen
Mr Jamie Hayes

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 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 13th July 2005 were checked for accuracy. One change was made on page 4 under Sip feeds - rheumatologists should read gastroenterologists.

5. Matters arising

National prescribing incentive scheme

Mrs Samuels reported that AWPAG had been tasked with providing feedback to AWMSG in relation to the implementation of the above scheme. WMP had circulated a questionnaire to HoPMMs and 9 responses had been received to date. Members were invited to consider the responses and comment.

Members felt it was difficult to gauge the results due to the limited response. It was agreed that a few key questions should be added to the original questionnaire and it be re circulated to HoPMMS. A request was made for members to feed questions into WMP who would then incorporate these and recirculate .

WMP

Mrs Samuels informed the Group that the minutes of AWMSG state that the development of the national audit falls within the remit of AWPAG. The Chairman confirmed that it was not the intention to develop a paper-base recording system but rather to use extracted information from QOF data and

was in discussion with Mr Simon Schourfield regarding this. She informed members that she had been reassured by Mr Schourfield that the data could be captured, but had been unable to contact him prior to the meeting. The Group agreed there was a need for a paper-based audit to supplement any electronic audit, and members were informed that some LHBs had already undertaken their own audit. WMP was requested to call for examples, co-ordinate and develop an all-Wales audit template based on audits currently available.

WMP

Feedback on glucose testing

The Chairman informed members that the AWMSG Chairman had written to Professor David Owens asking for a progress update. In this letter Professor Walker had asked that AWPAG be given opportunity to comment on the consultation document, particularly in relation to glucose testing, due to be distributed in January 2006. It was agreed to note the concern of the group over duplication of resources, as Welsh Assembly Government had set up a consensus group to develop this guidance with no formal link from AWPAG. WMP were asked to raise this issue at the AWMSG Steering Committee.

WMP

Generic and therapeutic substitution

Mrs Samuels confirmed that Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells, Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser, Welsh Assembly Government had clarified the legal position with regard to generic and therapeutic substitution at a recent AWMSG Steering Committee. It was agreed that a paper discussing generic substitution would be developed by WMP and brought back to AWPAG for comment. Therapeutic substitution had been taken off the work programme resulting from advice received from WAG.

WMP

6. Feedback from AWMSG Meeting

Broadening the appraisal process

Mrs Samuels confirmed that WMP are in the final stages of completing a bid to the Assembly to appraise all new anti-cancer agents.

AWMSG resignation of Chairman

The Chairman asked that members to note the resignation of Professor Roger Walker as AWMSG Chairman. There was no representative from Welsh Assembly Government at the meeting to confirm the process for re-election.

Prescribing publications

Mrs Samuels reported that the comments from the last AWPAG meeting had been considered at the AWMSG September 2005 meeting and, following the discussion, WMP had been tasked with costing out a needs assessment. The Chairman confirmed that the new BNF and Paediatric NF had been distributed within Wales and the responsibility for decision making in relation to the dental formulary would lie with the Welsh Assembly. It was noted that four years had lapsed since the last Nurse Formulary had been issued and that agreement from WAG funding of a revised version is awaited. Members were asked to note that the Drug & Therapeutic Bulletin is now available electronically to all NHS employees and community pharmacists. This presents an opportunity to maximise access to the D & T Bulletin and the Chairman sought the views of the group on this, which are to be included in a paper for AWMSG. The committee advised that GPs should continue to receive paper copies, but that electronic access may be more appropriate for

WMP

NJ

trusts. The overall cost will remain the same as if paper copies are reduced, the costs of this electronic licence will increase.

The Chairman informed the Group that an invitation had been extended from the publishers of the Paediatric BNF to key stakeholders to discuss the future development of their publication including electronic access, also its interaction with GP systems. It was agreed that the Chairman would invite the publishers to give a one-hour presentation on the same day as the next AWPAG meeting on 19th January 2006. Representatives from key stakeholders will be invited to attend, along with Mrs Fiona Woods, who has agreed to be the link between Access to Knowledge (A2K) and WMP.

7. Shared care

Dr Tessa Lewis asked members to consider the draft protocols for methotrexate, penicillamine, sulfasalazine, sodium aurothiomalate and auronofin and note the modifications to the general shared care template, criteria for drugs suitable for shared care and GP letter and response. Dr Martin Duerden had provided a paper defining what is "shared care" and what is "near patient testing" and this had been incorporated into the documentation.

WMP tabled a list of comments received in response to the WMP email to the Service with regard to the engagement of interface pharmacists. Mr John Terry agreed to re-visit this issue with the Chief Pharmacists to gain support for the collaborative working.

JT

It was agreed that any specific comments for pharmacists could be included under "Additional responsibilities" if and when there is a specific need. The Chairman asked members to forward comments to Dr Tessa Lewis. Dr Lewis informed the Group that the shared care templates were to be considered by the Welsh Rheumatologists Audit meeting later this month.

TL

Dr Lewis asked that members consider the implications of the 2-year review period. There were opposing views in relation to the responsibility of review and review period, and WMP were asked to consider the issues outside of the meeting.

WMP

It was agreed that WMP would redistribute the amended documents to member for information and take to the AWMSG meeting in December 2005.

WMP

8. Membership & constitutional issues

Mrs Lang reported that the AWMSG Steering Committee had approved the amended Constitution, which was tabled for information, and informed members of the minor changes. The Group approved the amended Constitution and it was agreed that the document should be taken to the AWMSG Meeting in December 2005 for ratification.

WMP

Mrs Lang informed member of current vacancies within AWPAG and tabled a copy of the advertisement and application form. It was noted that WMP would be posting the advertisement and application form on the AWMSG website following the meeting and communicating with appropriate groups/organisations within the Service. The closing date for applications is 11th November 2005.

WMP

9. Prescribing Strategy

Members were asked to note the paper taken to the AWMSG September 2005 meeting. Mrs Samuels confirmed that volunteers will be sought from

within the AWMSG sub-groups to join a high level strategic task and finish group to develop the document.

10. Indicators 2006/2007

Mrs Judith Vincent confirmed that the Inappropriate Generic Working Group had met on 17th October 2005 in Builth Wells to discuss and agree the basket for 2006/2007 and address any other relevant issues. She informed members that the working group had agreed that a recommendation would be made to AWMSG that carbamazepine and phenytoin should be removed from the basket. Mrs Vincent confirmed that Mrs Fiona Woods would be drafting two papers for the AWMSG December 2005 meeting – the first will clarify the agreed inappropriate generic prescribing basket of indicators, and the second will seek comments on how to engage with the Service in relation to educational initiatives to support good prescribing.

WMP

Mrs Judith Vincent and Mrs Delyth Simons left the meeting.

Mrs Samuels reported she had met with Mrs Nicola John, Mrs Delyth Simons and Mrs Judith Vincent on 27th September 2005 at Merthyr LHB. The aim of the meeting had been :

- To agree a timescale for indicator review, development and validation.
- To propose new membership and clarify the role of the Indicators Working group in relation to the national indicators.
- To consider the need for a replacement indicator for co-proxamol and, if required, what that replacement should be.
- To prepare a paper to be presented at AWPAG Oct 2005 and the AWMSG December 2005 meeting.

Members were asked to consider replacing the co-proxamol indicator with: Medicines Indicator 9

A medication review is recorded in the notes in the preceding 15 months for all patients being prescribed repeat medicines Standard 80%.

The Chairman invited comment and there was a diversity of views amongst members. Concern was expressed over the need for a standard measurement. A suggestion was made that the co-proxamol indicator should remain in the basket. A view was expressed that leaving co-proxamol in the basket would send out conflicting messages to the Service.

The majority view was that co-proxamol should be taken out of the basket of indicators for 2006/2007, the need for a medication review indicator requirement developed for future years once QOF codes were refined enough but should not be included for 2006/2007. Members agreed that AWPAG should work in conjunction with LHBs to assess medication review and develop a standard measurement.

WMP

WMP agreed to prepare a summary paper for the AWMSG December 2005 meeting.

Dr Mark Daniels volunteered to join the new Indicator Working Group.

WMP

WMP agreed to invite the HoPMMs to nominate a non-AWPAG representative to join the Indicator Working Group.

11. Sip feeds

Dr Tessa Lewis informed members that AWDAC had met in October and had considered the recommendations of AWPAG and NHSIF in relation to sip feeds. She confirmed that a positive response had been received from AWDAC, who had agreed to work with members of the NHSIF and AWPAG working groups to develop the recommendations. These comments will be fed back to AWMSG in December 2005 and advice will be sought from the parent group on how to proceed.

WMP

12. Supporting the whole health economy

WMP confirmed that members to this task and finish group would be sought from the following healthcare professional groups:

**Trust Clinical Director
LHB Medical Director
Trust Finance Director
LHB Finance Director
Trust Chief Pharmacist
Interface Pharmacist
HoPMM
GP
Hospital consultant
WMP representation**

It was noted that the parent group had supported the proposal that the task and finish group take the concept of interface engagement further and emphasized the need to incorporate this work as part of the proposed prescribing strategy.

WMP

13. Any other business

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting.