

Enclosure No:	7/AWMSG/1210
Agenda Item No:	11 – AWPAG update
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 10.30am At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Jane Barnard	Lay Member
Mrs Nuala Brennan	Public Health Wales
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist, North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Allied Healthcare Professional
Mr Richard Greville	ABPI
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist, North Wales
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Prescribing Advisor
Dr Susannah Jacks	GP South East Wales
Dr Sue Jeffs	Hospital Consultant
Katie Panton	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty	Secondary Care Consultant
Mr John Terry	Secondary Care Pharmacist
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist, West Wales Secondary
Dr David Webb	Care Consultant
Dr Sean Young	GP

In attendance

Dr Rob Bracchi (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Sue Cervetto (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Kate Owen (deputising for Mrs Ruth Lang, Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Key of abbreviations

AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit

CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (formerly known as the Prescribing Incentive Scheme)
CPW	Community Pharmacy Wales
DoH	Department of Health
GP	General Practitioner
HSW	Health Solutions Wales
HoPMM	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
MHRA	Medicines Health and Regulatory Authority
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
PSU	Prescribing Support Unit
SLA	Service Level Agreement
UHB	University Health Board
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members, and reminded those present of the remit of the Group and the protocol for the conduct of the meeting.

2. Apologies

Dr Jonathan Jones
Mr Jonathan Simms
Mrs Kath Hier

3. Declarations of interest

Katie Panton declared an interest in agenda Item 9, Draft Prescribing Indicators, as an employee of Pfizer, in relation to low cost statins.

4. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising:

Antimicrobial dispensing in primary care in Wales – pack sizes

The Chair reported that following discussions with Ken Thomas, it was confirmed that three-day and five-day pack sizes are available and can be procured if needed. The Group discussed the effect of pack sizes on prescribing antibiotics and identified issues to be progressed.

ACTION

Chair to link with antibiotic pharmacists and Professor Chris Butler

Update on WMP meeting with Lundbeck

Karen Samuels clarified that Lundbeck had offered to work with Health Boards in monitoring the use of escitalopram within NHS Wales.

AWPAG representation/link to all Wales Advisory Group for Diabetes

The Chair confirmed that Fiona Walker had agreed to represent AWPAG and link with the Wales Advisory Group for Diabetes.

Broadening of AWMSG's appraisal remit

Mrs Samuels updated members in relation to the implementation of AWMSG's broadened remit. Clarification was sought in relation to the status of a negative AWMSG recommendation.

6. Primary Care Guidance: Prescribing medicines for adults who are unable to swallow oral solid dosage forms

The Chair invited Bill Duffield to provide an overview of Enc 2, a draft paper setting out the framework for healthcare professionals to support their prescribing decisions in respect of patients who have difficulty swallowing oral solid dosage forms. The Group considered the most appropriate form for distribution and target audience. It was agreed that the first seven pages constituted the fundamental reading for prescribers, and that dissemination should include a broad a spectrum of prescribers and other healthcare professionals including community pharmacists, district nurses, dietitians and speech therapists. Particular mention was made of nurse prescribers as a means of informing nursing care home staff and the body responsible for the inspection and regulation of care homes. Jamie Hayes offered to draft an implementation plan for the rollout of the framework, and suggested that when it came to publication consideration should be given to the visual appeal of the document.

ACTION

Paper to be updated and submitted to AWMSG in December 2010

Jamie Hayes to prepare an implementation plan to include audit

7. Non NHS Prescribing – A Guide for Prescribers

Mrs Howard-Baker presented a document setting out guidance for health professionals on prescribing dilemmas including private care and private prescriptions; travel; foodstuffs; infertility treatments; minor ailments; homoeopathy; erectile dysfunction; prescribing for self and family; visitors from overseas; unlicensed medicines and prescribing outside national guidance. The Group commented on the detail of the paper and agreed it should proceed to AWMSG once we have received confirmation of the Ministerial comments regarding Professor Walker's recommendations in relation to co-payments.

ACTION

Louise Howard-Baker to update the paper in light of the comments received

8. Proposal for Model GMS Local Enhanced Service: Near Patient Testing

The Chair presented Enclosure 4 outlining proposals to update the existing Near Patient Testing Enhanced Service. The paper had been developed through consultation with Welsh interface pharmacists, AWPAG and Welsh Assembly officers. Members supported the proposals. The safety concerns and difficulties of managing patients prescribed lithium were raised. It was acknowledged that the Quality and Outcomes component of the GMS contract currently provide some support to managing these patients but do not provide the usual safety mechanisms associated with shared care. It was agreed to liaise with Assembly Officials to establish whether it was feasible to reintroduce lithium into the paper at this stage. The Group discussed mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of shared care arrangements. An audit of prescribing, clinical and blood monitoring of selected medications before and after introduction of this Model Enhanced Service would be useful.

ACTION

Paper to be updated and presented to AWMSG in December 2010

Expressions of interest to develop audit criteria/protocol to be submitted to the Chair.

9. Draft Prescribing Indicators 2011/12

Mr Bill Duffield and Mrs Louise Howard-Baker submitted an amended paper setting out the proposed national prescribing indicators for 2011/12, retaining efficiency and safety principles as a means to monitor Local Health Board (LHB) prescribing patterns across Wales.

There was discussion in relation to the retention of the antibiotic indicator. It was recognised that it was difficult to measure, but it was agreed it is a useful way of examining comparative prescribing rates, even if the focus tended to be on the volumes prescribed rather than clinical impact. It was considered that there should be some acknowledgement that rates of antibiotic prescribing were dynamic, and that a drive for reduction using a year end target did not take into account factors such as localised outbreaks of infection. Given the significant variation in the rate of antimicrobial prescribing across Wales and concerns about antibiotic resistance, it was considered an important indicator. The Group expressed concern that the Anti-Microbial Resistance Group had not met for some time and therefore had not been able to update the indicator.

It was agreed to maintain named low cost statins as the statin numerator. The Group discussed the implications of expected changes in drug patent in relation to the statin indicator. The Group welcomed comments on the updated prescribing data and suggested this be expanded to a graphic appendix.

ACTION

Bill Duffield to finalise the paper in light of the comments and present it to AWMSG in December 2010

10. Elderly National Service Framework/Medicines and Older People

The Chair provided the background - AWPAG had been invited to contribute to the update of the Elderly National Service Framework/Medicines and Older People. Dr Shetty had volunteered at the previous meeting to take the issue forward and had submitted Enc 6 for comment. Dr Shetty requested that members should submit their comments to him electronically, copying in all members of the Group, to produce a unified outcome.

ACTION

All Members of the Group to submit comments to Dr Hamsaraj Shetty

11. Monitored Dosage System (MDS) at Hospital Discharge

The Chair invited Jamie Hayes to provide background to enclosure 7 on the recent process mapping meeting. This reviewed the management of patients admitted and discharged on Monitored Dosage Systems. It was noted that under the current arrangements there was a risk of "failure demand" – the use of resources when existing systems failed or were not used appropriately. Three models of provision were considered. It was agreed that the Gwent model avoided some communication problems and provides a useful example as an interim measure. It was agreed that in the longer term, based on aging population and increased morbidity, demand for MDS solutions could increase. Further work would require input from social care. A systems approach

to designing a solution with capability and capacity would be resource intensive and require a business case. Members agreed to establish data sets electronically.

ACTION

Group members to note and report (NRLS) significant events relating to patients discharged on a Monitored Dosage System

Chair to forward paper to members prior to AWMSG outlining Gwent model as an example discharge process

Members to email Chair with suggestions for data set

12. Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme – Local Comparators

A paper was tabled setting out current local comparators. Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management representatives offered to establish a process for validation of the baskets. It was agreed that comparators need to be listed on the HSW website. Additional comparators identified were Chiral medicines and Neuroleptic Prescribing DDD per 1000 PUs. It was suggested that comparator 6 needs re-wording.

ACTION

Mr Bill Duffield to liaise with HSW and colleagues

13. National Audit on Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

Dr Susannah Jacks updated members on work in progress and links with Primary Care Quality and Information Service. Update on the development of a Read code for NSAID risk assessment is awaited. Mrs Karen Samuels offered to provide an update of audit outcomes at the January 2011 meeting.

ACTION

Karen Samuels to provide 2009/10 audit outcome to AWPAG January 2011

Susanna Jacks to continue to lead on the work, in collaboration with Sue Jeffs, Louise Howard-Baker and Karen Samuels and provide proposed amended audit AWPAG January 2011

Members to forward any comments on current NSAID audit to Susanna Jacks in next 4-8 weeks please.

14. Low Molecular Weight Heparin – Update report

The Chair confirmed that the paper outlining proposed interventions relating to low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) to promote best practice and reduce avoidable harm, waste and variation had been endorsed by AWMSG. It was agreed that there were practice points for both primary and secondary care prescribers. Suggestions were invited on the most appropriate methods of presentation and dissemination, and the target audience.

ACTION

Members to contact Chair if interested in developing educational material

15. Rosiglitazone withdrawal

The Group reviewed its actions in relation to Rosiglitazone, following the recent withdrawal of its licence. It was noted that the Group had previously registered its concerns about the prescribing of glitazones within the Key Prescribing Messages BNF Chapter 6 Endocrine in 2008. Two Good Practice Points had been identified:

- The place of thiazolidinediones as third-line agents should be reinforced to prescribers in Wales
- Rosiglitazone and pioglitazone should not be used in people with heart failure or

a history of heart failure (NYHA class 1-1V)

It was noted the Chapter Reviews had been discontinued. They provided a systematic approach to identifying prescribing issues and reviewing prescribing data. Members supported this approach and expressed an interest to work with WMP to establish a similar process.

A number of issues were identified:

- AWMSG documentation 'Key Prescribing Messages' are available on the website and will require updating
- Need to link with NPHS/NICE implementation work
- Improve links with clinical interest groups
- Notification period for NHS when a medicine is withdrawn
- Communication and dissemination of Good Practice Points.

AWPAG discussed mechanisms in Wales to provide prompt guidance to prescribers when a drug is withdrawn.

ACTION

Jamie Hayes, Louise Howard-Baker and Sara Isaac to consider reviewing the Endocrine Key Prescribing Message document

Chair to seek view of AWMSG Steering Committee in relation to the reintroduction of BNF Chapter Reviews

Chair to seek view of AWMSG Steering Committee regarding the establishment of a system within Wales to provide prompt advice to prescribers when a drug is withdrawn

16. Establishing a GP Prescribing Leads Forum

The Chair invited members to identify GPs with a special interest in therapeutics within their locality to form a discussion forum specialising in primary care prescribing. Suggestions included graduates from the Diploma in Therapeutics and also linking with Health Board Professional Forums when these are established.

ACTION

Members to forward nominations from their locality to the Chair

17. AWMSG lipid template

The Group noted that the AWMSG guidance for the use of statins was due for review in December. The Group indicated its continued support for the guidance and suggested linking with other initiatives. Mr John Terry and Mrs Sarah Isaacs agreed to support Mr Stuart Evans in updating the document, to be considered by AWPAG in January 2010. Members noted the WAG programme supporting familial hypercholesterolaemia nurses and would welcome more information to ensure that advice is consistent.

ACTION

Members to forward suggested amendments to Stuart Evans

Chair to seek further information from Assembly representatives at the next AWMSG Steering Committee

18. Feedback from other meetings

Medicines Management Programme Board

The latest newsletter from the MMPB had been provided to members for information.

HoPMMs

No issues to report.

PSU Users Group

There were no issues of note.

Welsh Informatics Service

There were no issues of note.

19. Papers for Information

The following papers were circulated for information but not subject to discussion:

AWPAG membership update

AWPAG Constitution update

Future meeting dates

Draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held in August 2010

20. Other business/future business

There was no other business. Items for future meetings to be submitted to the Chair in accordance with established practice.

21. Date of next meeting – Thursday, 27th January 2011, at the St Michaels Conference Centre, Abergavenny.