

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

**Minutes of meeting held on
Wednesday 22nd June 2016 commencing 9.30 am
At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD**

Voting members

Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Dr Lisa Adams	General Practitioner, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mrs Jane Barnard	Lay Member
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Miss Sian Evans	Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist, Powys
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sally Lewis	Assistant Medical Director/Primary Care Clinical Director, Aneurin Bevan
Mr Usman Malik	Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Robyn Miles	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf

In attendance (non-voting)

Mr Tom James	Head of Innovation and Industry Engagement, Welsh Government
Dr Rick Greville	Director, ABPI Cymru Wales
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Miss Christine Collier	AWTTC
Dr Stephanie Francis	AWTTC
Ms Karen Jones	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes	AWTTC
Miss Jessica Howells	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
ACBS	Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSG SC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme
CKD	Chronic kidney disease
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
GPC	General Practitioners Committee
LMWH	Low molecular weight heparin
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NOAC	Non-vitamin K oral anticoagulant
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PPI	Proton pump inhibitor
SACN	Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
WCPPE	Wales Centre for Pharmacy Professional Education

1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting. Members Susanna Jacks and Jonathan Simms were attending their last meeting, as they had completed two terms as members of the group, and the Chair thanked them for their contributions. The Chair informed the group of the sad news of the death of former AWPAG member Sean Young. Usman Malik was welcomed, deputising for Sophie Harding. The group was updated on membership and, although absent, welcomed Bethan Tranter, Chief Pharmacist, Velindre Cancer Centre, to the group. Two new members of WAPSU, Claire Thomas and Richard Boldero, were attending their first meeting and the Chair welcomed them. Members introduced themselves.

2.0 Apologies

Mr Andrew Evans, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government

Miss Sophie Harding, Pharmacist, Velindre

Dr Peter Horvath-Howard, GPC Wales

Ms Lynette James, Medicines Safety Officer, Cardiff & Vale

Dr Sue Jeffs Consultant, Aneurin Bevan

Mr Gary Morris, Lecturer in Physiotherapy, Cardiff University

Mr Paul Fleming, British Generics Manufacturers

Mrs Bethan Tranter, Velindre

3.0 Declarations of interest

The Chair asked for any declarations of interest. Members completed both Declarations of Interest forms and Confidentiality agreements.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair informed the meeting that there were no further items of note to report.

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and agreed.

6.0 Feedback from March, April and May 2016 AWMSG for information

Christine Collier provided feedback from the AWMSG meeting held on 20 May 2016. The following document had been presented to AWMSG for information:

[NPIs 2015–2016 – Analysis of Prescribing Data to Dec 2015](#)

The document highlighted improvements in prescribing for all NPIs with a threshold, in particular improvements in antibiotic prescribing. Members supported the document, which is now available on the AWMSG website.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 Educational Support for National CKD in Primary Care Audit

Dr Sion Edwards, Public Health Wales, and Owain Brooks, Pharmacist at ABMU Health Board, presented the Educational Support for National CKD in Primary Care Audit. Discussion followed and the project was given overall support by the members of the group. The Chair agreed that AWPAG were happy to undertake this project with AWTTTC support. The group suggested that the CKD Audit could be included as a 2017–2018 CEPP Audit; for discussion in September.

Action: Update on progress of project to be given at next AWPAG meeting.

7.2 Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin in Wales

Christine Collier presented the *Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin in Wales* document and highlighted that the document had been reviewed and had undergone consultation. Following discussion of the consultation remarks at the March AWPAG meeting, the document has now been updated. References to specific LMWHs have been removed, an appendix outlining all licensed indications and AWMSG recommendations has been added, and a link has been added to the Generic Shared Care Protocol Template on the AWMSG website, which has also been updated.

Members discussed the document and supported it proceeding to AWMSG in September, subject to the inclusion of one example of good practice and one wording change.

Action: Usman Malik to provide Velindre data on outcomes for inclusion as example of good practice.

Action: Alan Clatworthy to submit alternative wording for 3.10.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

Dr Sion Edwards and Owain Brooks left the meeting

7.3 Guidance for Partnership Working

Kath Haines presented the *Guidance for Partnership Working* document, which has been through consultation and updated since the AWPAG meeting in March 2016. Tom James, Welsh Government, stated that this document will be referenced in the Welsh Government Industry Engagement document. Members discussed the stakeholder list and highlighted that the document will need to be disseminated widely.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

Janet Thomas joined the meeting

7.4 Safeguarding Users of Opioid Patches by Standardising Patient/Caregiver Counselling

Janet Thomas presented the checklist. It was agreed to update the checklist in light of discussions, e.g. safety points, siting of patch, font size. It was agreed that 'carer' should be added to the 'checklist to patient' tick box section at the bottom of the checklist. The possibility for a separate version for patients was discussed. Measuring the effectiveness of this resource when published was raised and it was suggested that this could form a student project. It was also highlighted that the checklist would likely be translated into Welsh and Polish. Dr Sally Lewis informed the group that she would like this checklist to be signposted to in the Persistent Pain Resources, and that it would be beneficial to hand out this checklist to patients in combination with other opiate guidance.

Action: Additional wording to be added and font size to be made bigger

Action: Document to go to next PAPIG meeting

Action: AWTTTC to send out to consultation

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

Bev Woods left the meeting

7.5 Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2016–2017

Kath Haines and Claire Thomas presented the summary of prescribing priorities, and members confirmed that this document is useful if brought out earlier before schemes signed off. It was agreed that in future this document will be brought to AWPAG in September.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

7.12 Patient Information Leaflet – Proton Pump Inhibitors for the Treatment of Dyspepsia and Heartburn

Richard Boldero presented the Patient Information Leaflet – *Proton Pump Inhibitors for the Treatment of Dyspepsia and Heartburn*. It was suggested that the layout should be changed so that the self-care information comes before the long-term management. Use of the word 'course' to describe the treatment was discussed. The group were informed of the charity 'Core', which provides patient information leaflets for dyspepsia and heartburn. Carmarthenshire presented information on PPIs at the Best Practice Day, and they could be contacted to get their opinion on this patient information leaflet. It was agreed that the "Smokers Helpline Wales" name should be changed to "Stop Smoking Wales", with the appropriate phone number. It was also agreed that consistency in terminology should be used with 'medicines/medication', and that 'gastric' cancer should be changed to 'stomach' cancer. It was suggested that the terms antacids and alginates should be defined, and that the leaflet should contain more white space.

Action: Rick Greville to ask contacts for expertise in patient information leaflets

Action: Update document as appropriate, considering AWPAG suggestions

Action: Document to go to next PAPIG meeting

Tom James left the meeting

7.6 Persistent Pain Resources

Karen Jones and Jessica Howells presented the Persistent Pain Resources. This document has been out for consultation and received a large amount of feedback. Rob Bracchi and Karen Jones have met with the Welsh Pain Society (WPS), who agreed to provide input into the document, but this is still outstanding. Some of the main consultation responses were discussed, and the group were informed of changes made. AWPAG members were informed that the British Pain Society had provided guidance regarding using the term 'persistent' pain, and AWPAG were asked their opinions on the terminology 'chronic' versus 'persistent' pain. Jane Barnard informed the group that she is more familiar with the term 'chronic', and it was decided that both chronic and persistent would appear in blurb on the website. It was suggested that the paracetamol section of the Shared Decision-Making Toolkit should be updated as per BNF changes. Consistency of the National Exercise Referral Scheme terminology was discussed, and it was agreed to expand on the exercise point of the 10 Key Messages. It was agreed to also include non-pharmacological treatment within the slide set.

Action: Amendments to be made as per AWPAG

Action: Include additional point for the Non-Pharmacological 10 Key Messages when received from the WPS/psychologist

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

Sally Lewis left the meeting

7.7 All Wales NOAC Alert Card

Louise Howard-Baker presented the All Wales NOAC Alert Card, which has now been translated into Welsh. It was confirmed that an NHS Wales logo would be inserted. The issue of NOAC versus DOAC was once again raised, and correspondence to confirm the decision was requested. The document will undergo a final check against NICE guidance and proceed to printing.

Action: Forward NOAC versus DOAC correspondence to Sarah Isaac

Action: Re-check card details

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

7.8 Dose Titration of Biologics in Rheumatology Patients with Low Disease Activity

Alan Clatworthy presented the document and highlighted that drug choice had been removed due to difficulties arising from different prices resulting from different contracts. It was suggested that there could be PPIG involvement with regard to implementation. A change from 'Titration' to 'Tapering' was agreed. The protocol will be expanded upon and the document will be brought back to the next AWPAG meeting in September 2016.

Action: Change 'Titration' to 'Tapering'

Action: Document to be brought back to AWPAG

Lisa Adams, Jamie Hayes and Janet Thomas left the meeting

7.9 Prescribing of Amiodarone for Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter in Wales

Louise Howard-Baker presented the document, which has been updated in light of consultation comments. There was discussion of the use of shared care in general and it was suggested that a survey could be conducted to look at whether shared care is working nationally. Members confirmed that they supported the document proceeding to AWMSG in September 2016.

Action: Survey on shared care to be conducted

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

7.10 Vitamins for Babies, Children, and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

Laura Low, Public Health Dietician for Cardiff Flying Start, and Judith John, Public Health Wales, presented the document, which has been updated in light of consultation comments and the discussion at the last AWPAG meeting. It was suggested that a section of the document was at odds with prescription exemptions and it was agreed to amend the wording accordingly. In order to publicise the document and recommendations it contains, inclusion as one of the public health campaigns and training for pharmacists via WCPPE could be explored. The recommendations in the guidance will be checked against the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition report, due to be published in July 2016, and updated if needed. It was also suggested that the distribution mechanisms from other parts of the UK could be included as an appendix and will be explored. It was agreed that this guidance should be referenced in the next update of the Prescribing Dilemmas document.

Action: Make minor edits as suggested

Action: Reference this guidance in the next update of the Prescribing Dilemmas document

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG

7.11 Prescribing Guidance on Dry Eye

Barbara Ryan (Chief Optometric Adviser, Department for Health & Social Services) and Richard Boldero presented this document. Barbara Ryan informed the group that the £11 million spend on dry eye treatment may not be accurate and requires a check for accuracy. The essence of the guidance is to encourage a prudent approach, emphasising the importance of self care to patients, and directing healthcare professionals to use the less expensive eye drops as first-line eye drop treatment. Ophthalmic specialists are also currently commenting on the guidance. Fiona Walker and Jonathan Simms informed members of existing Cardiff and Vale and Aneurin Bevan dry eye guidance respectively, which they will send to Barbara Ryan.

Action: Confirm dry eye preparation prescribing cost

Action: Fiona Walker and Jonathan Simms to send local guidance to Barbara Ryan

Action: Changes made by ophthalmic experts to be implemented

Action: Minor amendments discussed at AWPAG to be made

Action: Document to go out to consultation

Action: Document to come back to AWPAG meeting in September 2016

8.0 Verbal updates

8.1 Shared Care Protocols – Riluzole (update)

Kath Haines informed the group that she had been in discussion with Alan Clatworthy and Fiona Walker, and confirmed that this project would be discontinued due to the success of specialist produced riluzole shared care protocols at a local level.

8.2 Material to Support Appropriate Prescribing of Hypnotics and Anxiolytics Across Wales

Claire Thomas informed members that the document was being updated and presented slides produced as part of a student project illustrating the effect of the resource pack on prescribing. Members were asked whether they used the resource and found it helpful; it was confirmed that these materials are valued by prescribers and an update would be welcomed.

Action: Bring updated document back to AWPAG meeting in September 2016

8.3 All Wales Guide to Prescribing Gluten-free Products – Update

Christine Collier provided a verbal update on the latest version of the document, which has been updated to reflect the latest list of ACBS-approved products published in March 2016. The updated document is now available on the AWMSG website.

A document highlighting the preferred distributors of gluten-free food suppliers is also in development and this will aim to assist prescribers in choosing the best value delivery options. This resource will sit alongside the All Wales Guide to Gluten-free Products on the AWMSG website when published.

8.4 All Wales Prescribing Guidelines for Asthma and COPD

Louise Howard-Baker and Kath Haines fed back to members on the progress of this project. A large number of responses were received for the consultation and, in light of the comments, the authors decided that the Respiratory Health Implementation Group should be re-convened for further discussion with wider input. Following the update, the document will be brought back to the next suitable AWPAG meeting.

9.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee

Jonathan Simms provided feedback from the Chief Pharmacists Committee. Welsh Government are currently in deliberation over a “New Treatment Fund” to be made available within NHS Wales.

The Committee has developed a policy for the use of Unlicensed Drugs within Health Boards; to be discussed at SC for recommendation to AWMSG.

10.0 Feedback from Best Practice Day

Kath Haines informed the group that the Best Practice Day feedback was very positive with an overwhelming request for more to be organised in the future. The presentations on National Prescribing Indicator (NPI) work within the health boards were very well received, creating much discussion.

The new online NPI interactive database, SPIRA, developed by WAPSU, was also presented by Helen Adams at the Best Practice Day with very positive comments. It will be demonstrated at the September AWPAG meeting.

Jonathan Simms suggested including the PrescQIPP[®] NHS programme at the next Best Practice Day.

11.0 Any Other Business

Susanna Jacks confirmed that the update of *Prescribing Specials – Guidance for the Prescribers of Specials* has now been published. She contributed to this Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) update on behalf of the RCGP.

Kath Haines informed the group of two possible dates for the next National Prescribing Indicator Subgroup meeting. The date of the 13th July 2016 was agreed. Jonathan Simms and Lisa Adams were invited to attend as new members and agreed.

12.0 Date of next meeting – Wednesday 28th September 2016