

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP (AWPAG)

**Minutes of meeting held on
22nd September 2021 commencing at 9.30 am via Zoom**

Chair – Dr Laurence Gray Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist, Cardiff & Vale UHB

Voting members

Ms Rosemary Allgeier	Primary Care Senior Manager, Public Health Wales
Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Dr Richard Brown	General Practitioner, Hywel Dda UHB
Mr Robert Caine	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Ms Sarah Davies	Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Hywel Dda UHB
Ms Hazel Hopkins	Prescribing Advisor, Hywel Dda UHB
Dr Lynette James	All Wales Consultant Pharmacist – Acute Care & Medication Safety
Mr Dylan Jones	Community Pharmacist, Powys Teaching HB
Mr Hywel Jones	Locality Prescribing Advisor and Lead Pharmacist for Aneurin Bevan UHB Prisons
Ms Karen May	Prescribing Advisor, Cardiff & Vale UHB
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner Aneurin Bevan UHB
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI representative
Mr Darren Smith	Pharmacist, Swansea Bay UHB

In attendance (non-voting)

Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Ms Shaila Ahmed	AWTTC
Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC
Dr Paul Deslandes	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mrs Ruth Lang	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC

Presenting

Professor Colin Dayan	7.1 Cost of prescribing of drugs for diabetes in Wales and relationship to metabolic control
Dr Peter Taylor	
Dr Simon Barry	7.2 Asthma Management and Prescribing Guideline (2021 update)
Mr Rhys Jeffries	7.3 COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline (2021 update)
Dr Nicholas Reid	7.4 Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines (2021 update)
Mrs Meryl Davies	7.5 CEPP Audits: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing (2021 update)
	7.6 Recurrent (Symptomatic) Urinary Tract Infections (Adults)
	7.7 Management of Clostridioides difficile Infection in Wales
	<u>Acknowledgement Process – for approval</u>
	8.1 Antimicrobial Wound Dressings (AWDs) Statement, Recommendations and Guidance
	8.2 Cellulitis Pathway for People with Lymphoedema or Chronic Oedema in NHS Wales

Observing

Ms Dianne Burnett

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PHW	Public Health Wales

1.0 Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all members and informed the group.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Dr Phil Cox	General Practitioner – Swansea Bay
Mr Ben Woodhouse	Alternate Pharmacist member – Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Jenny Pugh-Jones	Chief Pharmacist, Hywel Dda (for Bethan Tranter)
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist, Velindre NHS Trust
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC

Mr Andrew Evans	Welsh Government
Mr Paul Fleming	Chairman BGMA

3.0 Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement

The Chair asked members to declare any interests relevant to the meeting. Mrs Sue Knights declared an interest for item 7.1, and the Chair confirmed that she would need to leave the meeting for that item. David Barnard declared an interest for items 7.2 and 7.3, and the Chair confirmed that he would need to leave the meeting for these items. Members were reminded that Declarations of Interest forms should be returned to AWTTC prior to the meeting.

4.0 Chair's report

Membership

Anders Skarsten, Consultant for Powys has now left the health board so will no longer be eligible to represent Powys on the group.

Resignations

Kate Spittle, Pharmacist – Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB

New Appointments

Dr Phil Cox – GP member for Swansea Bay UHB
Mrs Helen Davies – now main pharmacist member for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
Ms Avril Tucker – alternate pharmacist member for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB

The Chair reminded members that there are currently vacancies for doctor members for Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards and Powys Teaching Health Board, along with a doctor member from Velindre NHS Trust. Members were asked to forward nominations to AWTTC.

5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – 30th June 2021

Minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. The Chair informed members that the June minutes stated Sue Knights had voted in the Biosimilar session, which was incorrect. The updated minutes were agreed.

The actions from the last meeting were considered.

6.0 Feedback from AWMSG – 14th September 2021

- All Wales Advice on SGLT-2 Inhibitors in Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease
Kath Haines informed members that AWMSG had approved the paper following minor edits.
- Tramadol Educational Resources (2021 Review)
Kath Haines informed members that AWMSG had supported the paper subject to minor edits.
- National Prescribing Indicators 2020–2021: Analysis of Prescribing Data to March 2021 (for information)
Kath Haines informed members that AWMSG members were updated on the National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021.

Professor Colin Dayan and Dr Peter Taylor joined the meeting.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 Cost of prescribing of drugs for diabetes in Wales and relationship to metabolic control

Sue Knights was removed from the meeting for session 7.1.

Dr Taylor gave members an in-depth background to the paper and explained the data analysed as part of this work. Dr Taylor presented members with examples of Primary care practice expenditure in Wales for a variety of diabetes agents. It was noted that there is a wide variety in prescribing practice and costs across Wales, which could be investigated with a view to optimisation. Dr Taylor shared potential recommendations with members and confirmed that the paper has not yet been published in the public domain. The group discussed a number of issues which can contribute to the variable outcomes, agreeing that it is possible for savings to be made in some practices. It was suggested that the paper would be good to share at a future Best Practice Day and that it should progress to AWMSG as part of the value-based outcome agenda discussions.

Action: Paper to progress to AWMSG

Professor Colin Dayan and Dr Peter Taylor left the meeting.

Sue Knights re-joined the meeting.

David Barnard was removed from the meeting for sessions 7.2 and 7.3.

Dr Simon Barry and Rhys Jeffries joined the meeting.

7.2 Asthma Management and Prescribing Guideline (2021 update)

Dr Barry presented the updated guidelines to members following the consultation. Dr Barry reiterated to members that the green agenda was a focus for this guideline update, and some additional information had been added following numerous comments from the consultation. It was explained that the high/low 'Global Warning Potential (GWP) logos had been developed to show the carbon impact of the inhalers. The Chair opened the floor to comments. The group agreed that the asthma guidelines should proceed to AWMSG.

Action: Guidelines to progress to AWMSG

7.3 COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline (2021 update)

Dr Barry presented the updated guidelines to members following the consultation. As with the asthma guidelines, it was reiterated that the green agenda was a focus for this guideline update. Dr Barry informed members that the guidelines had been amended to limit the use of SABAs for the management of exacerbations only. High/low GWP logos had also been added. Members highlighted that the second box in step 4 of enclosure 4a still contained the word SABA; Dr Barry confirmed this was a typographical error and would be removed. It was noted that additional inhaler options had been added to the guidelines. Members suggested that the recommendation to prescribe dry powder inhalers whenever possible was highlighted in the new 'supporting notes' and that a note is added on the use of nebulised bronchodilators. Dr Barry confirmed these additions would be made. Members agreed that the guidelines could proceed to AWMSG

Action: Dr Simon Barry to make agreed amends.

Action: Guideline to progress to AWMSG following edit.

Dr Simon Barry and Rhys Jeffries left the meeting.

David Barnard re-joined the meeting.

7.4 Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines (2021 update)

Dr Nik Reid gave members a brief update on the revised guidance and highlighted which groups had already been consulted prior to the wider consultation as part of the AWMSG process. The group queried using erythromycin during pregnancy, Meryl Davies confirmed its use was due to safety concerns and agreed some reformatting in the document was needed to make sure it was clear this recommendation was for pregnant patients with a penicillin allergy only. Members also suggested that an additional section on insect bites may be required. Members agreed for the document to go to consultation.

Action: Nik Reid/Meryl Davies to make requested changes before proceeding to consultation

Action: Proceed to consultation

7.5 CEPP Audits: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing (2021 update)

Meryl Davies presented the document to members and highlighted the new additions, confirming that the document will go out to consultation along with the Primary Care guidelines.

Action: Proceed to consultation

7.6 Recurrent (Symptomatic) Urinary Tract Infections (Adults)

Dr Reid highlighted to members the rationale for the document and confirmed that the document had been adapted from a document already in use in Swansea Bay UHB. The group queried if the urology group would be consulted and Kath Haines confirmed that all relevant consultees would be included in the consultation distribution list. Members highlighted that it may be beneficial to acknowledge the importance of vaginal oestrogens in peri-menopausal women and add warnings around the use of cranberry juice in combination with warfarin.

Action: Proceed to consultation

7.7 Management of *Clostridioides difficile* Infection in Wales

Dr Reid highlighted the main edits which have been done to the document and highlighted the cost difference of the drugs, confirming that the objective is not to move away from NICE guidance but to make it simpler to understand. Dr Reid highlighted

that cases of Clostridioides difficile infection are increasing due to the change in prescribing habits during COVID.

Action: Proceed to consultation

7.8 NPIs 2022-2023

Claire Thomas presented the NPIs 2022-2023 and explained that there were some consultation comments which required member discussion. The group discussed including an indicator regarding inhalers and decarbonisation as had been considered previously; members agreed that an indicator should be included. Claire Thomas highlighted comments raised regarding the 4C antimicrobial indicator, members confirmed that no change was required. An amendment to the antipsychotics in dementia indicator was discussed as per the consultation comments. It was confirmed that READ coding in this area is poor, however if patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia could be excluded, this would help narrow down the number of patients. AWTTTC agreed to investigate with DHCW. Claire Thomas highlighted comments made regarding additional anti-coagulation indicators; members agreed that these should not be included. The group discussed the high dose opioid basket and agreed to remove injections from the basket but to retain immediate release opioids.

Richard Boldero highlighted suggestions for the inclusion of somatropin within the basket for the Best Value Biological Medicine NPI. Members agreed that due to the availability of generic versions, somatropin and teriparatide should not be included within the indicator basket.

Action: Claire Thomas to investigate amending the antipsychotics NPSI with DHCW.

Action: Claire Thomas/Richard Boldero to make agreed amendments to the NPIs.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for endorsement.

7.9 All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation

Shaila Ahmed reminded members of the background to the document and highlighted updates which had been made following publication of NICE clinical guidance on the management of atrial fibrillation in June 2021. The main updates to the document include re-positioning DOACs before warfarin in the treatment pathway. The HAS-BLED bleeding risk tool has been amended to the ORBIT bleeding risk score. No further comments were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to consultation.

8.0 Acknowledgement Process

8.1 Antimicrobial Wound Dressings (AWDs) Statement, Recommendations and Guidance

Dr Nik Reid presented the guidance to members and gave a brief background. No issues were raised and members approved the document for the acknowledgement process.

Action: Document to progress through acknowledgement process.

8.2 Cellulitis Pathway for People with Lymphoedema or Chronic Oedema in NHS Wales

Meryl Davies presented the document to members; it was confirmed that the document fits the AWMSG Strategy criteria. No issues were raised and members approved the document for the acknowledgement process.

Action: Document to progress through acknowledgement process.

9.0 Verbal updates

9.1 Care Homes Medicines Optimisation Toolkit

Claire Thomas informed members that a project proposal form had been received from Emyr Jones and summarised the proposal for members.

9.2 Educational pack: Material to support appropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics across Wales (2021 update)

Paul Deslandes informed members that AWMSG had signed off the document and the document is now on the AWMSG website.

9.3 Resource reallocation (previously Disinvestment)

Richard Boldero updated members and briefly informed them of the next steps.

9.4 All Wales Chronic Pain Resources

Paul Deslandes informed members that the document had been out for consultation and that the comments were currently being reviewed. Paul Deslandes informed members that the document is on track to return to AWPAG in December.

9.5 Medicines Identified as High Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales – Proposal

Richard Boldero updated members on progress since the last meeting and thanked Rick Greville for his suggested inclusions from work currently being done within NHS England. Richard Boldero informed members that an SBAR for the overall initiative was given the support of the AWMSG Steering Committee.

10. Potential future workstreams:

Review of AWMSG's Guidance for Partnership Working

Dr Rick Greville gave members a brief background to the document and confirmed the document needed updating due to numerous reasons. Dr Greville confirmed that the document is currently in draft form but will be brought back to a future meeting once it has been updated.

11.0 Best Practice Day – 12th October 2021

Kath Haines reminded members that the Best Practice Day will be held virtually between 11am and 1pm on Tuesday, 12th October 2021, confirming the presentations to be:

- Chronic Disease Management in General Practice - The role of the pharmacy team, presented by Rachel Brace, Practice Pharmacist, Western Vale Family Practice
- Safe Prescribing of Sodium Valproate in Primary Care - presented by Rory Wilkinson, Head of Pharmacy, Primary Care and Community Services (Central), Betsi Cadwaladr UHB

Members were informed that currently 75 delegates have registered and members were urged to register before all places are taken.

Action: Members to register for the Best Practice Day if they wish to attend

12.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group

Bethan Tranter was not present at the meeting. Kath Haines gave a brief update from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group which had been provided prior to the meeting by Bethan Tranter.

Kath Haines summarised the Chief Pharmacist Peer Group work

1) TrAMS

Colin Powell, Director of Pharmacy Technical Services, NWSSP started in post 6th Sept. He is currently in the process of meeting with all Chief Pharmacists and will be joining the peer group meetings to ensure regular updates. OBC for South East Wales regional hub is scheduled to be submitted to Welsh Government in early November.

2) Workforce training

In conjunction with HEIW, the Chief Pharmacists are considering the impact of changes to the post-registration foundation pharmacist training plans and are planning to undertake resource mapping/workforce planning with a focus on pharmacy technicians particularly around the specialities of pharmacy technical services and homecare services.

3) COVID vaccine

Pharmacy teams continue to play integral role in the governance and operational oversight issues related to the safe delivery of COVID vaccine. Teams are actively engaged with the 3rd primary booster vaccine.

4) Careflow implementation

Implementation of Careflow (formerly known as WellSky) across Health Boards. Careflow replaces the legacy Hospital Pharmacy System known as EDS. Three health boards/Trusts are left to transfer and they should all be completed by end of the year.

5) All Wales Joint Pharmacy and Finance Group

As part of the NHS Wales Efficiency Programme, the Chief Pharmacist Group continue to work with WAPSU and Finance colleagues to identify and implement efficiency savings and review expenditure.

6) Pharmacy Management National Forum

The programme for the event is in the final stages of development and will include topics such as leadership and updates on Pharmacy in Wales: Delivering a Healthier Wales.

Meryl Davies left the meeting

13.0 Feedback from Health Boards and Velindre NHS Trust

There was no feedback from the health boards to note.

14.0 Any other business

Sodium valproate and oral retinoids reporting

Claire Thomas informed members that the change to the upper age limit of the sodium valproate and oral retinoids indicators had been implemented from April 1 and data would therefore be included within quarterly reports and on SPIRA from quarter 1.

15.0 Date of next meeting: 1st December 2021