

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2007 COMMENCING 10.30AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

Mr Trevor Batt	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Debbie Davies	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Mr William Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Ms Kath Haines	Pharmacist South West Wales (deputy)
Mrs Katherine Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales
Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Sara Thomas	Pharmacist South Wales (deputy)
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales

In attendance

Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership / WeMeReC)
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
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
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.

2. Apologies

Dr Robert Bracchi, GP Gwent
Dr Paul Buss, AWMSG link & Secondary Care Consultant
Dr Mark Daniels, GP South West Wales
Dr Charlie Danino, GP South West Wales
Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales
Mrs Nicola John , NPHS Representative
Dr Jonathan Jones, GP North Wales
Dr Stephen Lennox, Secondary Care Consultant
Mr Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist North Wales
Mrs Delyth Simons, Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr Ashok Rayani, GP South Wales
Dr David Webb, Secondary Care Consultant
Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells, Welsh Assembly Government

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. The following changes were made:

Insert 'in relation to glucose testing' into the sentence at the top of page 3 that reads "Mr Nazareth confirmed there were no controversial recommendations or any inconsistencies in relation to national evidence currently available in relation to glucose testing".

Amend date in the prescribing indicator section at the bottom of page 3 to read 2007/2008.

Prescribing audit templates have been posted on the website under the 'communication section'.

Matters arising

Prescribing indicators:

Ms Louise Howard-Baker, Pharmacist North Wales and deputy AWPAG member, has agreed to take the lead in relation to prescribing indicators (national and local). WMP has provided her with the timetable agreed at a previous working group meeting and background documentation. It is envisaged that Ms Howard-Baker will be in contact with the other members of the indicator working group for their input in the near future. Mrs Howard-Baker, or a representative of the working group, will be invited to attend the next AWPAG meeting in April 2007.

ACTION

- Include 'Indicator update' on the agenda for the April meeting and invite presentation to AWPAG by member of the indicator working group

Mrs Kath Hier and Mr Bill Duffield joined the meeting.

4. Prescribing incentive scheme / audit:

The Chair informed members that Mr Jonathan Simms had developed a steroid audit which has been piloted in Torfaen. He is willing for this to provide a basis for a national audit. Members agreed that this audit should be brought to the next meeting for consideration. No volunteer came forward to lead the prescribing incentive scheme working group, however members agreed that the national prescribing incentive scheme template requires audit and update. There was discussion over the need for consistency across Wales and concerns in relation to financial accounting, affordability and fluctuating prices. There is a need to establish which aspects of the scheme have been successful to enable sharing of good practice. Members agreed there is a need to intelligence gather, evaluate results and review the 2006/2007 scheme. Key questions were suggested and Mr Bill Duffield offered to review the questions prior to them being electronically circulated by WMP to the HoPMM.

ACTION

- Mr Duffield to review questions
- WMP to circulate to HoPPMs and compile responses
- Steroid audit template to be considered at next AWPAG meeting

NLIAH Modernisation Assessment and Medicines Management

Mrs Lang informed members that she had not received a response to invitation emailed to Mr Andrew Lewis to attend the AWPAG meeting to update members on the work of the NLIAH. There was discussion over the NLIAH report and the fact that the information had not been presented to the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group, or the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group – the advisory group to the Minister for Health and Social Services, and there is a need to raise awareness that prescribing-related issues should be brought to both groups. Concern was expressed by members in relation to this particular work, and the need to be informed of other prescribing initiatives NLIAH might be undertaking. Mrs Poulter agreed to address the issue of communication to AWMSG and its sub-groups within Welsh Assembly.

ACTION

- The Chair to take issue of communication the AWMSG Steering Committee and need for AWPAG/AWMSG to comment on the impact of draft guidance issued within NHS Wales.
- Mrs Poulter agreed to ensure that AWMSG, AWPAG and WMP are added to the Welsh Assembly's circulation list

Statin guidance update:

Members noted that the AWMSG statin guidance update is outstanding.

ACTION

- Dr Duerden to be asked to update AWPAG on statin guidance at next AWPAG meeting.

Sip feeds:

It was reported that the sip feeds document had been disseminated electronically and posted on AWMSG website.

Multicompartment compliance aids (MCAs):

The Chair informed members of a letter she had received from Community Pharmacy Wales advising that CPW along with the General Practitioners Committee (Wales) have

been working together to raise the issue of MDS-type provision and 7-day scripts with the Welsh Assembly for the last 18 months. It noted the GPC recommendation to all GP practices across Wales to cease the provision of 7 day prescriptions which are currently being issued solely for the purpose of supporting monitored dosage system. Mrs Poulter confirmed that the working group (consisting of representatives from AWPAG, GPC Wales, CPW, HoPMMs, Welsh Executive of the RPS, Social Services and Chief Pharmacists) will be meeting on Thursday to address this issue and all Chief Pharmacists will be copied into the minutes of the working group.

Ibuprofen prescribing in children

The Chair updated members on correspondence relating to the use of ibuprofen in dehydrated children. A response had been received from the Chairman of the British Association of Paediatric Nephrology who confirmed there had been isolated case reports. BAPN were awaiting feedback from the RCPCH Scottish Pharmacovigilance project D R Hedge, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist at UHW has developed referenced guidelines for use of ibuprofen in dehydrated children. Members agreed that further consideration of this issue is required.

ACTION

- To be added to the agenda for the next AWPAG meeting

5. Sharing good prescribing practice

The Chair thanked the South East Wales regional pharmacists who had prepared the prescribing reviews of BNF Chapter 5 – Infections and Chapter 6 – Endocrine System. Comments were invited from the Group on the content of the papers. Mr Batt and Mr Nazareth made note of the specific comments and agreed to feed members' comments back to the authors.

Mrs Lang referred members to the comments of AWMSG noted in Enc 9 (draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting December 2006) and, in particular, the following:

- the suggestion to include secondary care data
- the request for an editorial process to ensure the documents are robust, transparent and evidence-based
- the request for opportunity for pharmaceutical industry comment

Following the AWMSG meeting in December, WMP had agreed to address the issue of editorial support with WeMeReC. Mr Hayes informed members that he would be unable to undertake this support without additional resources.

Mrs Poulter confirmed that no additional resource would be available in the short-term, although the long-term support could be provided by the Prescribing Support Unit. Mrs Poulter confirmed that a steering group is being set up to develop this proposal.

Members agreed there is a need within NHS Wales to continue to disseminate and raise awareness of important prescribing messages and recognised the necessity of ensuring the documents are evidence-based and robust. A suggestion was made that an AWPAG Editorial Team could undertake an editorial process and the documents could be provided to NHSIF for information/comment prior to being presented to AWMSG. Several members volunteered to participate in this process. Mr Hayes agreed to provide the editorial team with examples of guidance to authors. Members agreed that no further

reviews would be undertaken until the editorial process had been completed and AWMSG support to this suggestion had been sought.

ACTION

- Mr Batt and Mr Nazareth to feedback to authors and update the papers to incorporate members' comments
- AWPAG editorial team to proof-read and edit the documents for presentation to AWMSG at a future meeting
- The Chair to seek agreement from the AWMSG Steering Committee on the proposed editorial process

6. Review of overall Generic Rate

The Chair invited Mr Ken Nazareth to present Enclosure 4 – generic prescribing rate. There was discussion over the rate set, the need to justify the target set and ensure a consistent basket of appropriate generics. Enclosure 4 suggests that the current generic rate is not leading to excessive generic prescribing. It was not considered feasible or necessary to develop and maintain a basket of generics that would lead to 100% generic prescribing. However it would be useful for benchmarking purposes to ensure that the generics basket is the same as that used in England. Mr Batt agreed to liaise with Prescribing Unit in England to ensure equivalence of baskets. Members agreed that the document should be considered by the indicator working group.

ACTION

- WMP to provide document to the indicator working group

7. Prescribing Strategy

The Chairman invited members to comment on the revised prescribing strategy document. Detailed comments were made by AWPAG and noted by the Welsh Medicines Partnership. A comment was made that the document should reference the work of other groups addressing areas of prescribing to provide a more co-ordinated strategy. Some members expressed an interest in attending the additional meeting arranged by WMP for members of NHSIF to provide additional comment on the draft document.

ACTION

- WMP to progress the prescribing strategy

**8. All Wales Diabetes Consensus guidelines for adults
Consensus Group consultation in relation to diabetes**

The Chair invited comment on the draft guideline. Members expressed concern over the lack of evidence in the draft document and noted significant inconsistencies with other national guidance such as DoH and NICE. It was reported that some members and their professional colleagues had already identified the issues and had submitted a detailed response to the consultation. It was agreed that a formal a response should be sent from AWPAG requesting a second draft, subject to AWMSG steering group approval.

The Group asked that their disappointment be conveyed to the parent group that AWPAG had not been afforded opportunity to input into the preparation of the document at an earlier stage. It was noted that AWPAG had made direct contact with the Chairman of the Consensus Group and offered support, particularly in relation to glucose testing. Members were disappointed that AWPAG/AWMSG had not been included in the circulation list and questioned why disparate groups were not feeding information into the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group whose remit is to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Social Services on prescribing issues.

ACTION

- **The Chair to seek advice from the AWMSG Acting Chairman in relation to responding to the consultation**
- **AWPAG recommend that AWMSG considers issues in relation to communication and future process for responding to prescribing-related draft guidance**

9. Update on Shared Care

Tobramycin & dornase alpha

The Chair provided the background to the discussion and referred members to the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held December 2006 when it was noted that AWMSG rejected the recommendation of AWPAG that tobramycin and dornase alpha should not be part of a shared care agreement. Members were asked to reconsider their initial recommendation. The Chair asked members to address the clinical aspect only. It was noted there was no representation from secondary care and one GP representative. Mrs Lang confirmed the meeting was quorate.

It was recognised that an All Wales consensus on the prescribing of these drugs to adults with cystic fibrosis was difficult to achieve. The group discussed whether the provision of information such as an 'opt-in' shared care template would be feasible. Voting members were asked whether they supported a shared care arrangement, did not support a shared care arrangement, or supported the provision of information

ACTION

- **As there was no clear consensus around the table and limited clinical representation, the issue had to be deferred**

Amiodarone

The Chair provided the background to Enclosure 8a and 8b and invited comments. Dr Lewis informed members that she will be presenting the draft protocol to the Welsh Cardiac Meeting in February. There was discussion over the Welsh Eye Care Initiative and the suggestion to repeat eye-testing yearly rather than 6-monthly. It was noted there is a need to outline the withdrawal process.

ACTION

- **Dr Lewis to bring comments of Cardiologists back to AWPAG in April 2007**

Erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs)

The Chair invited comments on the document summarising clinical issues relating to the prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs). The document was developed by the shared care subgroup with comment from the renal physicians. It was noted that WAG has established a Renal Advisory Group to implement the Renal NSF and a Project Group is being asked to consider the option of centrally prescribing ESAs. Dr Webb is representing AWPAG and AWMSG at this meeting. The Chair confirmed that AWPAG should only address the clinical issues not the financial or commissioning aspect. The lack of GP and secondary care consultant representation at the meeting did not allow full discussion of the issues involved.

ACTION

- **AWPAG to review criteria for shared care at next meeting. Members to establish views of their representative group**
- **AWPAG to continue to liaise with the Renal Advisory Group**

10. Feedback from AWMSG Dec 2006 Meeting

The Chair referred members to Enc 9, the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held in December 2006.

11. WMP distribution list

WMP had been asked to provide members with a copy of their email circulation list to ensure accuracy and completeness. Members thanked WMP for the list agreed that the list is comprehensive.

12. Feedback from NHSIF October 2006 meeting and agenda for January 2007 meeting

The Chair referred members to Encs 11 and 12 and invited comment. Mrs Lang offered members a copy of the ABPI Cymru Wales reports on CHD and Diabetes in Wales: Meeting the Challenges and Health and Use of Medicines in the UK: A View of Wales.

13. Any other business

It was noted that the AWMSG website is only accessible via the internet not the intranet.

It was noted that two members have not attended three consecutive meetings. The Constitution states that membership will end if there is absenteeism from three consecutive ordinary meetings (unless the Committee is satisfied that the absence is due to a reasonable cause)

ACTION

- WMP to make contact with the members

14. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th April 2007 at the Hill Education & Conference Centre, Abergavenny and subsequently on:

Tuesday, 10th July 2007

Thursday, 11th October 2007

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