

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

**Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 23rd September 2015 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
Mrs Jane Barnard	Lay Member
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr Andrew Evans	Department of Health and Social Services
Mrs Sian Evans	Consultant, Pharmaceutical Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist, Powys
Miss Sophie Harding	Pharmacist, Velindre
Dr Peter Horvath-Howard	GPC Wales
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Beverley Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf

In attendance (non-voting)

Dr Rick Greville	Director, ABPI Cymru Wales
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers
Dr Robert Bracchi	AWTTC
Dr Stephanie Francis	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes	AWTTC
Mrs Kate Jenkins	AWTTC

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
APoSM	Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSG SC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
BNF	British National Formulary
GP	General Practitioner
GPC	General Practitioners Committee
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PCQIS	Primary Care Quality and Information Service
PrescQIPP	Prescribing Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention
QOF	Quality Outcomes Framework
TDA	Therapeutic Development Assessment

1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2.0 Apologies

Dr Atir Khan

Dr Sally Lewis

Dr Susanna Jacks

Dr Tessa Lewis

Consultant, Hywel Dda

Interim Assistant Medical Director/Primary Care

Clinical Director, Aneurin Bevan

GP, Aneurin Bevan

AWTTC

3.0 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest pertinent to the meeting. Members were asked to complete Declaration of Interest forms for the period of twelve months from September 2015.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair informed the group that a non-medical prescriber physiotherapist from Hywel Dda University Health Board had shown an interest in becoming the "Other professions eligible to prescribe" representative of AWPAG. The Chair has been in contact and will invite him to the December meeting of AWPAG.

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. Accuracy was agreed. The Chair asked for an update on the following action points:

National Prescribing Indicators 2015–2016 – Beverley Woods informed the group that nothing further had progressed with the work Cwm Taf are doing to identify medicines which have been recently stopped on GP computer systems for potential Yellow Card reports. However, support for auto-filling Yellow Cards was highlighted.

Action: Beverley Woods to inform AWPAG of the PrescQIPP response.

Polypharmacy: Guidance for Prescribing – AWTTC is responding to documentation received from NICE for consideration of the guidance endorsement.

Implementation Documents – AWMSG Advice on the Role of Oral Anticoagulants

Action: Tessa Lewis to speak to Martin Holloway with regard to Audit+.

Post-meeting note from Tessa Lewis: Tessa Lewis has liaised with Audit+. The Audit+ AF module has been piloted and is expected to be rolled out imminently, this will include the measure "Patients with warfarin with AF where TTR has been calculated".

Diabetes Prescribing Analysis with Cluster Level Comparators – This document was presented to AWMSG on the 16 September and will be disseminated by the end of the week. Sian Evans suggested that there might be an opportunity to feed in to the primary care outcomes workshop (Paul Myers).

Action: Fiona Walker to send QOF data for primary care outcomes.

All Wales PPI and Dyspepsia Resource Pack – AWTTC view that there is no significant additional data available to warrant update of this resource pack which was endorsed by AWMSG in 2013. This decision was supported at AWMSG SC.

Inhaled Steroid Safety Cards – Fiona Walker informed the group that she had been unable to contact Dr Simon Barry to date.

Action: Fiona Walker to contact Dr Simon Barry

Shared Care Protocols at an All Wales Level – AWMSG Steering Committee agreed that AWPAG should develop any shared care protocols for medicines that are specialist initiated and where felt necessary. Riluzole is the first priority.

Guidance for Partnership Working – The group were informed that the Guidance for Partnership Working document was currently with the TDA Partnership Group. Rick Greville informed the group that this would be forwarded to AWTTTC in the near future.

Guidance on the Procurement and Prescribing of Specials – Update – The group were informed that Susanna Jacks would forward the document to members within a month. Members were invited to forward examples of scenarios/case studies to illustrate guidance to Susanna Jacks.

Amiodarone – Louise Howard-Baker still waiting for a response

Action: Send to AWPAG members for comment when ready.

6.0 Feedback from 17 June and 16 September 2015 AWMSG for information

Kath Haines provided feedback from the AWMSG meeting of the 17 June:

- [National Audit: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG on 17 June 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website. The audit is being taken forward by AWTTTC and PCQIS for integration with GP Practice IT systems.
- [National Audit: Towards Appropriate NSAID Prescribing](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG on 17 June 2015. It was endorsed and is on the AWMSG website.

Jamie Hayes provided feedback from the AWMSG meeting of the 16 September:

- [Guidance to Support the Safe Use of Long-term Oral Bisphosphonate Therapy](#) – The document was presented and endorsed, pending inclusion of suggestions, by AWMSG on 16 September 2015.
- [Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG by Robin Howe on 16 September 2015. AWMSG endorsed the guideline for implementation within NHS Wales.
- [Guidance on Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Related to Caesarean Section](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG by Robin Howe on 16 September 2015. AWMSG endorsed the guideline for implementation within NHS Wales.
- [Primary Care Prescribing Analysis – Medicines Used in Diabetes](#) – The document was presented and endorsed by AWMSG on 16 September 2015.
- [National Prescribing Indicators 2014–2015 Annual Primary Care Prescribing Report](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG on 16 September 2015. Members welcomed the report and suggested an explanatory note should be included in Table 1 for clarification. Jamie Hayes confirmed that a User Testing Exercise would be undertaken by AWTTTC. AWMSG endorsed the report.
- [One System for Health](#) – The document was presented to AWMSG by Cheryl Way on 16 September 2015. AWMSG supported the project.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 Mechanisms to Promote and Support the Systematic Implementation of National Therapeutic Guidance

Jamie Hayes presented the Mechanisms to Promote and Support the Systematic Implementation of National Therapeutic Guidance document. Jamie Hayes informed the group that Tessa Lewis had been in consultation with cardiologists, who provided positive feedback. Sally Lewis is promoting decision aids – will provide feedback on this. Presence of implementation groups already within health boards was raised. Jamie Hayes highlighted that the intention is to get to the detail of the guidelines. However, it was questioned whether focussing on quality standards provides details. The discussion centred around whether we should be focussing on improving implementation of AWPAG/AWMSG guidance instead of NICE. It was suggested that this type of guidance would be useful if produced for guidelines coming out in the next six months and available before health boards had provided implementation plans.

Action: Jamie Hayes to feedback discussion to Tessa Lewis.

7.2 Secondary Care National Prescribing Indicators 2016–2017

Kate Jenkins presented the Secondary Care National Prescribing Indicators 2016–2017 document. Kate Jenkins informed the group that the document had been developed by Stephanie Francis to include the supporting information around the three areas agreed at the previous AWPAG meeting: insulin prescribing, prescribing of biosimilars and antibiotic surgical prophylaxis. Kate Jenkins asked the group if there were any comments or further information that should be included.

Insulin – The group supported the examples of good practice in the insulin section and asked if there could be some identified for the other sections. Fiona Walker asked for clarity that the indicator related to type 2 diabetes only. Rick Greville commented on the moving target i.e. Suggestion that last paragraph loose in terms of evidence base.

Biosimilars – Rick Greville had concern regarding wording of target; need to make it clear that the measure is not meant to encourage a blanket switch from one product to another. Any change should be based on a clinical decision with agreement of patient and clinician. NICE guidance wording to be incorporated as appropriate. It was agreed that that each medicine within the biosimilar basket should be measured separately.

Antibiotics – Kate Jenkins informed group that audit was a new way to measure an NPI and that the audit would be piloted before April to produce baseline data. Likely area for audit was GI surgery, initially 10 patients per site. Kate Jenkins to attend the antimicrobial pharmacists meeting in October to feedback comments and confirm the details and pilot.

Timeframe – Document to be reviewed, consultation October–November. If significant changes back to AWPAG in December. AWMSG in February (no AWMSG in Jan).

Action: Paul Fleming and Rick Greville to share NICE biosimilar guidance with AWTTTC.

Action: Kate Jenkins to discuss antibiotic section with antimicrobial pharmacists group in October.

Action: Stephanie Francis to amend document with recommended changes.

7.3 **Welsh Cautionary and Advisory Labels in BNF for Prescription Medicines**

The Chair presented the Welsh Cautionary and Advisory Labels in the BNF for Prescription Medicines. The Chair informed the group that 30 labels had been translated. Rick Greville raised the issue of colloquialisms. Rick Greville highlighted three points: No. 5 – is there was an alternative or more widely used term for indigestion; No. 14 – ‘anything’ misspelled – needs a check, suggested that ‘*unrhyw ddrwg*’ would read better than ‘*o ddrwg*’; No. 28 – is there an alternative, more widely used term for ‘*spread*’ rather than ‘*teanwch*’. Discussion followed regarding Welsh translations. The Chair informed the group that labels would be written in both English and Welsh. Sue Jeffs suggested Jane Barnard share with Welsh-speaking contacts.

Action: AWPAG members to send comments to AWTTTC regarding Welsh translation.

7.4 **National Prescribing Indicators 2016–2017**

Kate Jenkins presented the NPIs 2016–2017 document. Kate Jenkins informed the group that the NPI Task and Finish Group had met on 29 July 2015. The group propose to retire two NPIs: lipid-modifying drugs and opioids – morphine measure, and introduce two new NPIs: other lipid-regulating drugs and gabapentin and pregabalin use. Beverley Woods recommended against retiring the morphine measure as this was a priority area for Cwm Taf. Louise Howard-Baker explained that the group had felt that this measure in isolation without extra data on strong opioid prescribing was not particularly useful. It was proposed that wording to say it will continue to be a Local Comparator was included. Peter Horvath-Howard pointed out that it is hard to treat pain, with the warning on all analgesia. Sue Jeffs suggested working with AWTTTC to develop an AWMSG resource tool on pain guidance.

Kath Haines mentioned that the group had discussed ezetimibe in light of the IMPROVE-IT study and the need to inform the company that there would be no change to the current measure but that it would be retired at the end of the financial year.

Jonathan Simms asked that the NPIs be linked up to the wording within the outcome framework for 2016–2017.

Timeframe – Document to be reviewed, sent out to consultation October–November; then to AWPAG in December and AWMSG in February (as there is no AWMSG in Jan).

Jamie Hayes mentioned that Karen Eveleigh has asked about the development of the outcome based antidepressant indicators. Kath Haines informed the group that this was led by 1,000 Lives and that after the initial scoping meeting there had been no further meetings to date.

Action: Sian Evans to email Kath Haines regarding primary care outcomes workshop.

Action: Members to send AWTTTC examples of pain guidance from within their health boards. Sue Jeffs, Kath Haines and Bev Woods to meet to discuss the development of pain guidelines, including a treatment algorithm and submit a project proposal to AWTTTC.

Action: Inform company of consideration of their ezetimibe study.

7.5 Safeguarding Users of Fentanyl Patches by Standardising Patient/Caregiver Counselling

The Chair presented the proposal by Janet Thomas which focuses on the issue of insufficient counselling when prescribing fentanyl patches. It was suggested that this could apply to other patches as well as opioids, e.g. hormones. The group felt that it needs to be considered for inclusion on the list of high risk medicines. The involvement of Yellow Cards, Poisons, 1000 Lives, Medical Safety Officers, APoSM and Behavioural Insights was suggested. Beverley Woods suggested including consistent guidance regarding disposal. Rob Bracchi informed the group that he had forwarded this to the Medical Safety Officer. It was suggested that this could form part of the pain work discussed earlier.

Action: Chair to discuss with 1000 Lives Improvement Services and Lynette James, Consultant Pharmacist – Medication Safety. Chair to approach and write to Paul Gimson (1000 Lives Improvement Services).

7.6 Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin – Review

The Chair presented the Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin – Review document. It was highlighted that many of the practical points will require wide consultation including from haematologists, anaesthetists. Sophie Harding reported that 95% of GPs are taking up shared care for this. Good practice points need to match with recommendations.

Action: Document to go out to wider consultation.

Action: Alan Clatworthy to share Shared Care Protocol when appraised.

8.0 Verbal updates

8.1 Medicines Administration, Recording, Review, Storage and Disposal

The Chair informed the group that the Medicines Administration, Recording, Review, Storage and Disposal document had been out for consultation. The document is currently being updated and will be presented to AWMSG SC in October 2015 and AWMSG in November 2015.

8.2 All Wales Guidance for Health Boards/Trusts in Respect of Medicines and Healthcare Support Workers

The Chair informed the group that the All Wales Guidance for Health Boards/Trusts in Respect of Medicines and Healthcare Support Workers document had been out for consultation. The document is currently being updated and will be presented to AWMSG SC in October 2015 and AWMSG in November 2015.

8.3 Medicines-related Admissions

The Chair and Jamie Hayes informed the group that there was nothing further to report on the Medicines-related Admissions but will aim to bring data to the next AWPAG meeting. Jamie Hayes suggested asking 1000 Lives to help with this work.

8.4 Amiodarone

The Chair informed the group that she had been unable to contact the consultant regarding amiodarone. The Chair also informed the group that new guidelines had been issued around amiodarone in atrial fibrillation.

Action: Chair to contact consultant and bring information back to the next meeting.

8.5 Dose Taper and Discontinuation of Biologics in Low Disease Activity Rheumatology Patients and Review of Biologics Pathway

The Chair informed the group that Jayne Price was no longer able to continue with the Dose Tape and Discontinuation of Biologics in Low Disease Activity Rheumatology Patients and Review of Biologics Pathway project.

Action: Louise Howard-Baker will contact Kevin Smith and Jayne Price.

8.6 Role of Oral Anticoagulants – Update

The latest copy of the Role of Oral Anticoagulants – update was distributed to the group for perusal. The Chair asked the group for comments to be sent to AWTTTC who will then forward comments on to Tessa Lewis. Discussion followed regarding the use of NOAC (which is sometimes being interpreted as No Anticoagulant) and DOAC (Direct oral anticoagulant) and it was agreed that the document should reflect this change. Then this update will go out for consultation.

Action: AWTTTC to circulate electronic copy of update to members.

Action: Members to forward comments to AWTTTC by 30 September 2015.

9.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee

Nothing to report.

10.0 AOB

10.1 Alert Cards/Patient All Wales NOAC Card

The Chair informed the group that she had received an email regarding the Patient All Wales NOAC Card. A copy of the card was distributed to members for perusal. The members supported the proposal. Peter Horvath-Howard asked whether this would be translated into Welsh.

Action: The Chair to take to AWMSG SC.

10.2 Prescribing Dilemmas – Norethisterone

Kath Haines informed the group that a few queries had been received by AWTTTC regarding the prescribing of norethisterone for the purpose of delaying menstruation on travel/holiday. Kath Haines asked the group whether this should be included in the Prescribing Dilemmas document. Discussion followed regarding whether this should be classed as a travel issue or a general issue. Rob Bracchi informed the group that patients can obtain a consultation and prescription on-line for this.

Action: Peter Horvath-Howard to ask GPC whether this is an issue with them.

10.3 Learning opportunities

Jamie Hayes suggested inviting speakers to AWPAG or using expertise within group for a session within the AWPAG meeting. Sian Evans asked whether the group would find behavioural insights training helpful. Other suggestions included weighting, benchmarking. Jamie Hayes asked for suggestions to be forwarded. This will be included on the agenda for the December 2015 meeting.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16 December 2015