

Enclosure No:	4/AWMSG/0310
Agenda Item No:	8 – Update on AWPAG
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY 2010 COMMENCING 10.45 AM AT THE POST GRADUATE CENTRE, NEVILLE HALL HOSPITAL, ABERGAVENNY NP7 7EG

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Kath Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP South Wales
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist Mid & West Wales
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

In attendance

Mrs Kath Haines (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Dave Hopkins (Health Solutions Wales)
Dr Richard Greville (NHSIF member)
Ms Jeannette Wilkins (NHSIF member)

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
BNF	British National Formulary
BSC	Business Services Centre
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CHCs	Community Health Councils
CSM	Committee of Safety of Medicines
DoH	Department of Health
DMARD	Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug
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
NLIAH	National Leadership & Innovation Agency for Healthcare
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
RAG	Renal Advisory Group
RPSGB	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. The Chair introduced Helen Adams, Usman Malik and Jeanette Wilkins who had been invited to attend the meeting.

2. Apologies

Nuala Brennan, Public Health Service Wales representative
 Louise Howard-Baker, Pharmacist - North Wales
 Hamsaraj Shetty, Secondary Care Consultant – South East Wales
 Katie Panton, NHSIF representative
 Jeremy Felvus, NHSIF representative
 John Terry, Chief Pharmacist
 Martin Duerden, Medical Director
 Judith Vincent, Pharmacist South West Wales

3. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. Jeanette Wilkins confirmed that her employer, Sanofi Aventis, had provided a response to the consultation in relation to prescribing low molecular weight heparin.

4. Chair's report

The Chair highlighted the Welsh Assembly Government announcement that funding is to be made available from 1st April 2010 to support the broadening of the AWMSG appraisal process to include all medicines not on the NICE work programme. The Chair confirmed that the future structure of AWPAG would be considered in light of the NHS reorganisation and WMP is awaiting direction from Assembly officials.

5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

An issue of accuracy was noted in relation to unlicensed medicines on page 3. AWPAG members are not aware that this issue is being undertaken by the National Prescribing Centre.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising, other than those included on the agenda.

- Controlled drug regulations and training requirements

The HoPMM representatives confirmed that work in relation to this area was currently in hand. Members agreed that an all-Wales document developed via AWPAG highlighting educational requirements and clarifying roles and responsibilities would be helpful. Mr Duffield agreed to provide a paper for the next AWMSG steering committee.

ACTION

WMP to provide deadline dates for AWMSGSC papers to WD

- Statin template review

The Chair highlighted the minor change made to the template for prescribing statins. She confirmed that subject to receiving the approval of AWPAG, the document would replace the outdated document on the AWMSG website. Members endorsed the document and agreed that any further changes would be considered at the next review in December 2010. The Chair conveyed the view of the AWMSG Steering Committee that the minor update would not require the endorsement of AWMSG.

- Unlicensed medicines update

Members agreed there is a need to pull together an educational resource and provide clarification of legal and clinical responsibilities. It was agreed that the recommendations outlined in a paper considered by AWPAG previously should be reviewed. The HoPMM representatives agreed to liaise outside of the meeting and develop a strategic document for consideration at the next meeting in April and subsequently by AWMSG.

ACTION

HoPPM representatives to present update paper at next meeting – Lead JS

- Vascular Group report update

The Chair confirmed that the final draft of the Vascular Group would be available for AWPAG/AWMSG comment within the next few days before it is presented to Minister. The Chair invited volunteers to comment on the document when available and Jon Simms was nominated.

ACTION

WMP to email publication & invite comment to all AWPAG members when available

Jon Simms nominated as AWPAG representative to provide comment via WMP

- Amiodarone prescribing for 'historical' patients

The Chair confirmed that the document developed by Louise Howard-Baker in Wrexham would be reported via the 1000 Lives Campaign. The Chair confirmed the support of AWPAG and the Cardiologists to progress the issue and that the Wrexham document would be presented to the Cardiovascular New Drugs Group for comment on 3rd February. Members agreed in principle to promote the paper and endorse the good prescribing practice. Mr Dave Hopkins of HSW provided the Chair with data relating to the prescribing of amiodarone. It was noted that engagement with general physicians and respiratory physicians would be appropriate. The Chair agreed to seek the views of the New Cardiovascular Drugs Group and relay their views at the next meeting.

ACTION

Chair to seek views of the NCDG and physicians

6. Review of chiral medicine basket (National Indicator 2010/2011)

The Chair invited members to consider the review paper prepared by the indicator working group and the letter received from Lundbeck Limited and consider whether or not it is appropriate that the escitalopram indicator should remain within the chiral indicator basket. William Duffield declared a personal specific interest in this agenda item and was excluded from the vote. A copy of a further letter from Lundbeck Limited, dated 26th January 2010, was tabled. The Group was asked to decide whether including escitalopram in the chiral indicator basket was appropriate when considering where it fits within NICE guidance. Mr Simms confirmed he had met directly with Mr Steve Turley, Managing Director of Lundbeck Limited and relayed the view of Mr Turley that including it in the chiral indicator basket is unfair. The ABPI representatives were invited to comment. Members agreed to add a clause covering all indicators (future papers and Prescribing Services website) reflecting the need for clinicians to exercise their clinical judgement when providing care for an individual patient. It was agreed that

the intention of the indicator was not to preclude escitalopram from prescribing but to promote appropriate use. The decision was that escitalopram should be retained within the chiral indicator basket with clarification of the wording. It was agreed that the view of AWPAG would be relayed to AWMSG in March 2010.

ACTION

Indicator Working Group Chair to provide clarification of wording

The view of AWPAG to be relayed to AWMSG in March 2010

HSW representative to amend the wording on the HSW website

Dr David Webb joined the meeting.

7. Low Molecular Weight Heparin

The Chairman confirmed that the consultation document had been issued in December. Members were referred to the summary of responses. The Chair thanked Mr Usman Malik for attending the meeting and providing input into the discussion. The Chair clarified that the summary document would be updated following AWPAG and included in the paper to be presented to AWMSG. Confirmation was sought that the document accurately reflected the comments received. Each recommendation was considered on an individual basis in light of the comments received. The Chair made a note of the suggested changes. A suggestion was made to pilot a template and amend the wording to allow GPs the opportunity to prescribe if they felt competent, and ensure that no pressure was exerted on those GPs who did not wish to do so. There was insufficient support to make a national recommendation for the shared care prescribing of prophylactic doses of low molecular weight heparin in pregnancy and the Chair agreed to take this forward with the specialists. The Chair confirmed that the issue would be revisited at the next meeting when the educational resource pack and other associated issues had been considered and feedback received from the specialists.

ACTION

Agreed Recommendations to be taken to AWMSG March

Educational resource pack to be developed by working group

Chair to seek views of specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology

8. Emerging Themes: Improving Pharmaceutical Services in Wales

The Chair provided the background and outlined the request from the Pharmacy Services Task and Finish Group to develop a target for 28 day prescribing. Members considered the proposed basket, which was approved with two exceptions. Members supported the proposal of a 28 day prescribing indicator.

ACTION

Chair to relay AWPAG's support and comments to the Community Pharmacy Policy Manager

9. Prescribing measures

The Chair invited Dr Helen Adams to provide a briefing on mapping prescribing spend. A copy of the presentation is available upon request from the secretariat (WMP).

10. AWMSG/WMP Communication Strategy update

The Chair drew members' attention to the updated AWMSG/WMP communication strategy and invited comment - to be submitted to WMP by email outside of the meeting.

ACTION

All members to email comments to WMP by February 12

11. NICE Quality Standards

The Chair referred members to the NICE quality standards which apply in England and not currently in Wales. The Chair asked members to consider whether they supported the development of the standards within Wales, recognizing that if AWPAG support the standards there would be financial implications which would have to be identified with

Welsh Assembly officials. Members supported the development of local quality standards alongside the national guidelines for certain services. Members acknowledged the robustness of the documents and welcomed opportunity to develop the standards within Wales, recognising the issue of service re-design.

ACTION

Chair to relay comments to AWMSG Steering Committee

12. Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme

- National audit on NSAIDs

The Chair thanked Dr Susanna Jacks, Mrs Louise Howard-Baker and Mr Ken Nazareth for progressing the audit and confirmed the intention for it to be considered at AWMSG on 3rd March 2010. Dr S Jacks invited comment on the draft paper. Members agreed that there was need for clarification in relation to defined daily dose, and suggested that inclusion of an explanatory sentence and a national graph might be useful. Other minor suggestions were noted. There was discussion in relation to Audit Plus and the inclusion of support materials. The working group agreed to update the document in light of the comments received and seek clarification in relation to Audit Plus and potential for inclusion of support materials. WMP representatives confirmed the deadline for receipt of papers to be presented to AWMSG in March.

ACTION

AWPAG lead to update document and provide to WMP

- Measuring the effect of the national audits

The Chair conveyed the support of the AWMSG Steering Committee to analyse the impact of the AWMSG audit templates. Discussion took place regarding the anticoagulation audit and overlap with the 1000 lives campaign. The 1,000 lives website includes data on outcomes and it was felt that further work by AWPAG was not appropriate. However it was agreed that NSAID audit outcomes should be collated and reviewed by AWPAG.

ACTION

Add review of NSAID audit outcomes to AWPAG agenda Jan 2011

- Local Comparators: basket for specials substitutions

Members noted the development by HSW of a local comparator basket for specials substitutions. Confirmation was received that HSW had worked with HoPMMs to update the baskets which would be imminently available on the HSW website. The group considered additions and deletions to the local comparators.

13. An inquiry into physical dependence and addiction to prescription and over-the-counter medication: the Welsh perspective

The Chair referred members to the comprehensive report produced by Professor Roger Walker of Public Health Wales regarding the Welsh perspective of physical dependence and addiction to prescription and over-the-counter medication. Mrs Haines updated members on a project currently being undertaken by WMP on behalf of the Substance Misuse Team in Welsh Assembly Government in relation to variation in prescribing of benzodiazepines. The input of Health Solutions Wales in providing national data was acknowledged. It was acknowledged that the report would assist Welsh Assembly officials in the planning of substance misuse services. AWPAG expressed interest in taking forward the remaining recommendations of the report.

ACTION

Chair to discuss with AWMSG Steering Committee

14. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists Group

The Chair referred members to the draft minutes of the interface pharmacists group held Friday, 13th November 2009.

Feedback from HSW

Mr Hopkins provided an update. Members were informed of a UCLH system being piloted in Cwm Taff and Cardiff and Vale.

15. Feedback from HoPMMs

There were no issues of note.

16. Feedback from Chief Pharmacists – potential secondary care incentive scheme

The Chair relayed the agreement of the Chief Pharmacists to address the issue of patient discharged on a dosette box in relation to reducing delays in patient discharge. Mr John Terry had expressed interest in being part of a process mapping group which would address the issues. Dr Lewis noted work led by Ruth Owen outlining the issues of medicines management between health and social care. These will be forwarded to the working group and interface pharmacists for further consideration. Dr David Webb was nominated from AWPAG and it was suggested that Mrs Tyler-Batt and Ellie Daniels be invited. Members were invited to contact Ruth Lang if they were interested in taking forward this work.

ACTION

Working group to feedback to future AWPAG meeting

NSAID dispensing from outpatients / A+E

Following previous discussions by the Interface pharmacists and AWPAG, the Chair confirmed that Mr Terry could take forward the issue of supply and choice of NSAID for patients discharged from hospital. AWPAG supported the use of small packs of ibuprofen / naproxen at the point of discharge instead of diclofenac.

17. AWMSG meetings

Members were referred to the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held December 2009. There were no issues of note.

18. Any other business

There was no further business and the Chair closed the meeting.

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday, 21st April 2010 at 10.45 am