

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28th APRIL 2004 AT 9.30 AM In the Orchard Suite, Holt Lodge, Wrexham LL13 9SW

Members

Dr Thomas Lau (Chairman)
Mrs Nicola John (Vice Chair)

Dr Robert Bracchi
Dr Martin Duerden
Mr William Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Dr Brian Hawkins
Dr Jonathan Jones
Miss Tracy Parry
Mrs Delyth Simons
Mr John Terry
Mrs Judith Vincent

In attendance

Dr Mark Daniels (Deputy GP member)
Mr Paul Parker (Welsh Assembly Government)
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Nicola Miller (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Professor Philip Routledge (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Action

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the second meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) and introduced Dr Mark Daniels who had been invited to attend the meeting to participate in the discussions on indicators. The Chairman also welcomed Dr Brian Hawkins, deputy for Mr Ken Nazareth, Mrs Nicola Miller, who has recently been appointed to WMP and was observing the meeting and Mr Paul Parker, representing Mrs Carolyn Poulter who is currently on maternity leave. The Chairman confirmed that members absent for three consecutive meetings would be asked if they wished to resign from the committee and the deputy (or another member) would be appointed. It was noted that Dr Stephen Griffiths, had not attended three consecutive meetings.

2 **Apologies**

Dr Jeremy Black
Mr Paul Gimson
Mr Ken Nazareth
Dr Gillian Todd
Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells

3 **Declarations of interest**

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda.

4 **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th January 2004 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

5 **Matters arising**

Item 13: Core AWPAG development of All-Wales formulary

PAR reported that a meeting had been held on Friday, 19th March at which Professor David Lawson of the Scottish Medicines Consortium had given a presentation to representatives from M&T Committees in Wales outlining the appraisal process in Scotland. AWPAG members who had attended the meeting commented that it had been very constructive and WMP agreed to take forward the comments in a proposal to AWMSG to support the managed introduction of medicines across Wales. This proposal will be submitted to AWMSG at the June 2004 meeting.

WMP

6 **High level (national) prescribing indicators for implementation April 05**

Mrs Judith Vincent presented a brief overview of Enclosure 2 notes from a meeting of the working group. There was general discussion and it was agreed that the working group would progress this issue outside of the meeting. Members were asked to send any comments to WMP prior to 10th May.

- Dr Jeremy Black
- Dr Mark Daniels
- Mr William Duffield
- Mr Paul Gimson
- Mr Jamie Hayes
- Mrs Nicola John
- Mrs Karen Samuels
- Mrs Delyth Simons (lead)
- Mrs Judith Vincent

**Working
Group**

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Feedback from the prescribing incentive scheme working group

Mrs Vincent presented enclosure 3. Members agreed that a letter should be issued from the Chairman to LHBs recommending that incentive schemes currently in place should remain unchanged until April 2005. The group acknowledged that even if AWPAG recommended that the scheme be mandatory, the final decision would be for local health boards to address local priorities. The group agreed there was a need for a 'criteria for spend' allowing a degree of local ownership, and financial input into the discussions would be necessary. The group also agreed the need to interface with secondary care. The working group agreed to meet to discuss detailed proposals to bring back to the next AWPAG meeting in October. Comments

from members would be incorporated into the document and presented to AWMSG at the December 2004 meeting.

- Dr Jeremy Black (lead)
- Dr Mark Daniels
- Mr William Duffield
- Mr Paul Gimson
- Mr Jamie Hayes
- Mrs Nicola John
- Mrs Karen Samuels
- Mrs Delyth Simons
- Mrs Judith Vincent

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AWPAG work programme

Mrs Nicola John presented Enclosure 4. It was agreed that a formal work programme would take forward the priorities of AWMSG and other unidentified work, allow AWPAG to serve the LHBs and give recognition those carrying out the work, and assure the Minister that recommendations from the Task and Finish Group had progressed. A need to link with other groups was identified and, as Welsh Assembly Government representative, Paul Parker agreed to act as a conduit through which links could be established. It was agreed that an over-arching strategy should be established and it was agreed that WMP and NPHS would progress this outside of the meeting. Philip Routledge reported that he had asked all M&TCs if they would be willing for him to attend a meeting to enhance links and encourage good communication between WMP and the service. It was agreed that WMP would re-present an updated work programme at the next AWMSG meeting in June. Members were asked to send comment to WMP outside of the meeting on Appendix 2 and 3 (AWMSG priority 2 and 3).

Working
Group

Members agreed timelines for work allocated at the previous meeting.

Shared care protocols (WMP – agenda item 10)

Horizon scanning of “low” cost potentially high volume drugs (WMP July 2004)

Influence & implementation strategies – more effectively changing practice
(Northern Wales Advisers – WD confirmed July 2004)

Centralised purchasing of non-drugs (dressings, feeds, appliances & reagent/test strips) (North Wales Advisers – WD confirmed July 2005)

Standards for dispensing practices (not allocated - on hold at present)

Low Level Prescribing indicators (with referenced materials)

(Mid & West Wales Advisers – DS & JV confirmed July 2004)

WMP

Prescribing incentive schemes (nominated working group – October 2004)

Implementation of Townsend recommendations

(Mid & West Wales Advisers)

Organizing a prescribing advisers conference open to all advisers (medics, pharmacists & medicines management)

(South East Advisers – Paul Gimson not at meeting)

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Introduction & monitoring of software into GP practices

The Chairman welcomed Mr Simon Schofield and Ms Laura Beer, members of the Foundation Project within Welsh Assembly Government. A detailed presentation was made of the software that had been developed in line with the new GP contract to improve data quality in GP practices. The group was assured that comments would be fed back to MSD as the product was not static and tweaks would be made where necessary. It was acknowledged that some problems had been experienced during the 'bedding-in' process and that training issues and roll-out were still under negotiation. Members commented that there was a need for all-Wales anonymised data for regional analysis to consider regional trends and asked the Welsh Assembly Government representative for guidance on whether the data could be made available to AWPAG. Mr Parker confirmed that data from GPs would be passed to LHBS, who would then pass the information on to Welsh Assembly Government, but there was no agreement on whether the raw data could be used by AWPAG for national and regional analysis.

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Shared care protocols

Mrs Karen Samuels tabled an exemplar of a shared care template for discussion and informed members that WMP had been tasked with developing shared care protocols under the AWPAG work programme. It was confirmed that an exemplar of a shared care template was currently displayed on the AWMSG website, with links to specific examples. Members commented that although the exemplar was helpful, there was a need to prevent repetition of work throughout the 22 LHBS and more specific and concise information was required. Also, a comment was made that the roles and responsibilities of individuals to support the shared care template was also required. It was agreed that as regional representatives members should provide WMP with existing shared care protocols. WMP would collate and reformat the models and bring the information back to the July meeting confirming the current status. It was also agreed that key contacts (health professional groups and committees) should be identified. It was envisaged that the model shared care protocols would be disseminated through the key contacts for local adaption and displayed on the AWMSG website.

**All/
WMP**

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Development of antiplatelet prescribing guidance

Mr Stuart Evans tabled a draft document for discussion. It was noted that NICE guidance would be issued on 24th June 2004 but it was felt there was a need to issue interim guidance to NHS Wales at the AWMSG June meeting. It was agreed that the logo on the top of the document should be removed, but an acknowledgement of the authorship should be incorporated into the document. The group discussed the financial aspect of switching patients and the need for audit in secondary care. Mr Evans agreed to forward an electronic copy to WMP for circulation to members for comment. WMP agreed to forward the document to GPC Wales and the Welsh Cardiac Network. The group agreed that the document should be taken to the AWMSG June meeting.

**SE/
WMP**

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Core All-Wales statin prescribing guidance

Mr Stuart Evans tabled a discussion document. It was acknowledged there was a need for input from primary and secondary care to provide an

was a need for input from primary and secondary care to provide an integrated approach in developing the guidance document. Mr Evans agreed to forward an electronic copy to WMP for circulation amongst members. Comments should be fed back to WMP and discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

13 **Code of conduct / sponsorship – consideration of re-draft**

Members were asked to consider the document *Guidance for partnership working between NHS organisations, primary care contractors, the pharmaceutical industry and the wider commercial sector* (enclosures 5AB&C). The Chairman commented that AWMSG had tasked the NHS-Industry Forum to take the lead on this document, however comments from AWPAG members had previously been considered and taken on board in the preparation of the re-draft. The Chairman invited members to comment on the revised document:

Specific comments received:

Logo should be removed – difficult to read and not necessary

Examples of bad practice should be included - the document gives examples of good practice but not bad practice

There should be a balance – pitfalls should be acknowledged

The document is generally too vague

The word “partnership” should be removed – not a partnership guidance for working

It should be made clear that this document should not be used by industry to coerce LHBs

Annex 2 – need to state benefits eg did speakers receive a fee?

Some members expressed their opposition to the document and with the fact that the NHSIF had been tasked with developing the document. Some members wished that their discontent with the document and how it was being used should be noted. Other members acknowledged the positives and the need for such guidance. The majority voiced discontent, but this was not unanimous. WMP confirmed that all comments would be passed to NHSIF at a meeting on 20th May. Members asked that the Chairman convey the strength of feeling of opposition to the Chairman of both NHSIF and AWMSG. It was acknowledged that this was a consensus document that would be brought back to AWMSG at their July 2004 meeting for consideration and further discussion.

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GP prescribing leads

- 14 The Chairman invited Professor Philip Routledge to present the tabled Enclosure 7. It was agreed that where a need was identified within an LHB, AWPAG would support the role of a GP prescribing lead. It was noted that differences in structures would need to be addressed. Members were asked to read the document outside of the meeting, pass comments to WMP, to be incorporated into a paper for the AWMSG June meeting. The example job description (based on the exemplar produced by the NPC) will be displayed on the AWMSG website.

WMP

Developments on Supplementary Prescribing

- 15 The report (enclosure 6) prepared by Mrs Kathryn Bourne was brought to the attention of the group. It was confirmed that workshops have been held throughout Wales, and that two more would be held in May

- NPC Contract**
- 16 Jamie Hayes informed the group that links with NPC have been established to improve the current situation regarding the cascading of training and acknowledged the support of the NPC. Mr Hayes confirmed that proposals would be drawn up and presented to NPC at a future date.

WMP

- Dates & format of future meetings**
- 17 The group agreed the following 2005 meeting dates:

Wednesday, 12th January 2005 (South Wales)
Wednesday, 27th April 2005 (West Wales)
Wednesday, 13th July 2005 (North Wales)
Wednesday, 19th October 2005 (South Wales)

- Any other business**
- 18 It was proposed and agreed that Dr Mark Daniels be co-opted to AWPAG.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th July 2004 at the Plas Hyfryd Country Hotel, Narberth, Pembrokeshire commencing 9.30 am.