

## **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP (AWPAG)**

### **Minutes of meeting held on**

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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
Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Dr Phil Cox	General Practitioner – Swansea Bay UHB
Ms Helen Davies	Prescribing Advisor – Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
Mr Andrew Evans	Chief Pharmaceutical Office, Welsh Government (for Item 8.3 only)
Ms Hazel Hopkins	Prescribing Advisor – Hywel Dda UHB
Dr Lynette James	All Wales Consultant Pharmacist – Acute Care & Medication Safety Pharmacist for Aneurin Bevan UHB
Ms Emily Knight	Pharmacist for Aneurin Bevan UHB
Mr Alan Meudell	Lay member
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI representative
Dr Gemma Rogers	General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan UHB
Mr Darren Smith	Pharmacist – Swansea Bay UHB
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist – Velindre NHS Trust

#### **In attendance (non-voting)**

Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC
Dr Paul Deslandes	AWTTC
Mr Paul Fleming	Chairman BGMA
Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mrs Ruth Lang	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC
Mrs Katherine Chaplin	AWTTC
Mrs Jessica Morgan	AWTTC

#### **Presenting**

Ms Melissa Reddaway	Attended for Item 7.0 only
Mr Emyr Jones	Attended for Item 8.1 only
Dr Sheridan Court	Attended for Item 8.1 only
Ms Efthymia Mantzourani	Attended for Item 8.3 only

#### **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
HEIW	Health Educations and Improvement Wales
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PHW	Public Health Wales
QAIF	Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework

## **1.0 Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed all members and introduced Dr Gemma Rogers who was attending her first meeting of AWPAG.

## **2.0 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Mr Adrian Byrne	Alternate Pharmacist member – Powys THB
Ms Sarah Davies	Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Hywel Dda UHB
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner – Aneurin Bevan UHB
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC
Ms Amy Williams	Other healthcare professional eligible to prescribe

## **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 8.1 Maximising the opportunity presented by biosimilar medicines – A National Strategy for Wales.

The Chair noted that Mrs Knights would leave the meeting for this item.

## **4.0 Chair's report**

### Membership

Members were informed of the following:

### Resignations

Mr Ben Woodhouse, Alternate Pharmacist member, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB  
Mr Sudhir Sehrawat, Community Pharmacist

There were no new appointments to report.

The Chair informed the group that Dr Richard Skone had now moved to an acting member role on AWMSG and therefore would not be able to continue as a member of AWPAG whilst in this AWMSG role.

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 – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The Chair thanked members for their comments on the draft minutes and informed members that wording and an action point had been added to the Item 7.5 of the minutes following members receiving them in June.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and agreed.

The actions from the last meeting were considered.

## **6.0 Feedback from AWMSG – 12<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Kath Haines gave feedback on the recent AWMSG meetings. All documents for endorsement and for acknowledgement were approved by AWMSG.

### For endorsement:

- All Wales Guidance for Prescribing intervals
- All Wales Chronic Pain Resources
- Value-based prescribing – Biological medicines for severe uncontrolled asthma

- Value-based prescribing – Low value for prescribing review (noted but a request was agreed for a further push to reduce prescribing of selected items across HBs – for discussion here)

For acknowledgement:

- Daptomycin prescribing and monitoring guideline
- Colistimethate sodium prescribing and monitoring guideline in adults
- Teicoplanin prescribing and monitoring guideline for adults
- Antimicrobial dosing in extremes of body weight in adults
- Antimicrobial dosing in adults with renal impairment
- Antibiotic Review Kit (ARK) hospital in-patient medication chart

For information:

- Primary care antimicrobial guidelines (updates)
- CEPP National Audit - Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing (updates)
- Management of Recurrent Symptomatic Urinary Tract Infection in Adult Women (updates)
- National Prescribing Indicators 2021-22: Analysis of prescribing data to March 2022

For agreement:

- SBAR: Frequency of NPI review and update

For noting

- AWTTTC work programme consultation

## 7.0 Student Presentation

Ms Melissa Reddaway gave a presentation entitled An Explorative Study into Adherence to Prescribing Safety Indicators Across Wales, produced following her student project undertaken with AWTTTC.

## 8.0 Documents for discussion

### 8.1 Polypharmacy review – guidance for prescribing

The Chair welcomed Mr Emyr Jones and Ms Sheridan Court who presented the Polypharmacy review comments following consultation. Ms Court highlighted the main points and noted that no comments were controversial and that the majority were from the pharmacy perspective. It was noted that there were amendments to be made to page 9 of the document in respect of medicines assessments carried out in community pharmacy. It was highlighted that the reducing of anti-depressants information was not in line with NICE and the Royal College of Psychiatry guidelines. It was felt that further guidance needed to be sought with input from additional experts in the field of psychiatry when updating the document. It was suggested that the authors contact Professor Taylor, author of the Maudsley guidelines. Ms Rosemary Allgeier, who has experience with mental health pharmacy, agreed to help with the review. Discussion followed regarding high-risk medicines and the inclusion of the STOP START Tool alongside A-PINCH, and some changes that may be required to update information related to sick day rules.

The Chair thanked Mr Jones and Ms Court for attending the meeting.

**Action: Mr Emyr Jones and Ms Sheridan Court to contact mental health experts and review document in light of consultation comments.**

**Action: Document to be circulated to members by end of October for e-sign off.**

**Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG in December.**

*Mrs Sue Knights left the meeting*

### 8.2 Biosimilar Strategy consultation comments

Ms Kath Haines gave members an update on the status of the Biosimilar strategy document. Following a wide consultation there had been a high number of responses

and the recurring themes in the comments were highlighted; the document has already been updated following the comments received. Ms Haines informed members that the strategy was written recognising NHS Wales' priorities as part of the recovery post pandemic which covers a lot of key areas that are appropriate to the biosimilars. Mr Andrew Evans informed members of the purpose of the strategy and stressed that this was a broader strategy than just saving on costs.

Ms Haines highlighted the importance of horizon scanning and the development of a commercial framework which will be developed to incorporate patient reported outcomes and stressed the importance of shared decision making and specialist input to the strategy implementation.

Discussion followed noting the improvement of the document following consultation. It was queried as to whether for point 38, the introduction of a new, rapid, streamlined HTA approach for biosimilar medicines where the reference medicine has not been approved by the end of 2022 was a little ambitious and maybe this should be changed to 2023. Further discussion followed regarding the possibility of further references for specific figures in the document and the wording of biologics and biosimilars. Welsh government will discuss this wording directly with the ABPI.

**Action: Agreed amendments to be made and document to progress to AWMSG in December.**

*Mrs Sue Knights rejoined the meeting*

### **8.3 Understanding unlicensed medicines**

Dr Efthymia Mantzourani gave the background to the document which is to provide guidance for improving the management of unlicensed 'specials' and off-label medicines in all sectors of healthcare in NHS Wales. Dr Mantzourani continued with an overview of research undertaken for the document and highlighted how patients were to be involved. Dr Mantzourani thanked the task and finish group that helped create the resources for this document.

Discussion followed with additional items for inclusion being raised, including:

- certain phrases to be added to the glossary
- guidance regarding pricing of 'specials' in primary care as described in the drug tariff
- support available e.g. hospital medicines information services for primary care community pharmacies who don't have access to specialist resources
- a larger space in the Patient Information Leaflet for the medicine name to allow additional information to be included
- mention that when putting medicines into monitored dose systems, even if used as intended, the medicine could be regarded as of unlicensed use.
- mention of the need for general practitioners to have sufficient information when patients are transferred between care settings, and that information may come from a clinic not only via a discharge summary
- where prescribers need to make alternative arrangements for supply, this should be done in "a timely manner"

A further suggestion was to consider the order of the paragraphs to provide a better flow.

Dr Lynette James agreed to forward wording to Dr Mantzourani for inclusion in the document.

Members thanked Dr Mantzourani for a useful, helpful and needed document, which helped in engaging patients.

**Action: Dr Lynette James to forward GMC wording to Dr Mantzourani for inclusion in the document.**

**Action: Amendments to be made then document to proceed to consultation and following consultation return to AWPAG.**

*Mrs Bethan Tranter left the meeting*

#### **8.4 Inhaler decarbonisation scenarios**

The Chair introduced the inhaler decarbonisation scenarios. Mr Richard Boldero highlighted to members Enclosure 7 – the Wales inhaler carbon footprint report for June 2022 highlighting the reduction shown in comparison between the first two quarters of 2022 and the month ending June 2022 compared to June 2021.

Mr Boldero explained the paper on scenarios, informing members that it is intended to support the inhaler scenarios that members agreed at the AWPAG meeting in June and noted that this paper is due to go to AWMSG in December.

Each scenario was then discussed individually.

##### Scenario 1

Mr Boldero gave an overview of scenario 1. A query regarding the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> levels was noted and whether they are high or low. It was suggested that a possible target could be added into the document. There were no further comments.

##### Scenario 2

Mr Boldero gave an overview of scenario 2. It was noted that the scenarios are examples and not recommendations in terms of what people are choosing to switch to. It was suggested that a clear explanation on this should be included in the introduction. With regards to this scenario it was suggested the switch should be stated to be Fobumix® as this was being seen in practice. It was noted that in SPIRA there are examples of switching inhalers at a local level so not a large number of scenarios are required to be included in this paper as examples.

Members were asked to forward further examples to AWTTTC and it was agreed that a small number of further scenarios could be added to the document.

##### Scenario 3

Members discussed scenario 3. It was queried as to whether this scenario was more of a safety issue rather than carbon footprint and whether this scenario should be retained. The Chair asked members to vote on whether 1. the wording be change on this scenario or 2. the scenario be removed. The majority of members voted for the scenario to be removed.

##### Scenario 4 and Scenario 5

Mr Boldero gave a brief overview of these scenarios but there were no further comments from members.

The Chair thanked Mr Boldero and also thanked Mr Steven Griffiths for the data analysis.

**Action: Amendments to be made to document then send for AWPAG e-sign off at end of October before progressing to AWMSG in December.**

#### **8.5 Low value for prescribing review**

Mr Richard Boldero presented the recommendations made on the Low value for prescribing review at the meeting of AWPAG in June. The recommendations were taken to AWMSG where members had raised concerns on the retiring of medicines

from the baskets and the effect of this on prescribing. AWPAG were asked to give further thought to what further push could be given to reduce use of these medicines across the NHS in Wales. Discussion followed regarding minimum spend threshold and reporting of data to health boards. It was queried as to whether there was any system warning issued to prescribers when prescribing these medicines.

Following discussion, the Chair summarised that the original recommendations by AWPAG in June were still the consensus of the group and these identified medicines should be retired from the basket. Members felt that any residual prescribing of these medicines was likely to have been investigated and that any further positive changes were likely to be minimal. So, health boards' resources were likely to be more beneficially used in addressing other areas of the Value-Based Prescribing programme.

**Action: Paper to be taken back to AWMSG in December 2022.**

## **9.0 AWMSG Medicines Optimisation Document Review**

Dr Tom Curran presented the AWMSG Medicines Optimisation Document Review paper reminding members that the standard process was for documents on the AWTTTC website to be considered for review every 3 years, as resources allow. It was noted that there is currently a backlog of documents on the website which have passed or are approaching the 3-year limit.

Members were asked to review the list of documents and note those which they feel may be a priority for review and also flag those which they feel may be considered for removal. Dr Curran noted a few of the documents that were already in the process of being reviewed and noted that the authors of the gender dysphoria document had already flagged that a review was planned in the coming months.

It was also noted that a health board had flagged that the Medicines Administration Records Review Storage and Disposal (MARRS) Policy needed a review as a priority, this was supported by Dr Lynnette James who confirmed that updated guidance was in development. Ms Helen Davies recommended that the authors of the update contact the Chair of the All Wales Education and Training Group, Rowena White where there is a lot of work ongoing developing the pharmacy assistant workforce. Ms Kath Haines informed the group that AWTTTC's overall work programme priorities were still being considered and are due to be discussed with Welsh Government where this project will be included in the considerations.

Dr Curran informed members that the provided table of documents due for review would be updated and sent out to members to request their comments on each document as to whether they should be updated, retained or removed entirely from the website.

**Action: AWPAG members to complete and return the review document.**

## **10.0 Verbal updates**

### **10.1 Engagement with medicines optimisation resources**

Dr Tom Curran informed members that following on from the outcome report created on behalf of AWTTTC by Yma which was presented at the last meeting, a range of actions had been compiled and grouped into four areas: Website & IT, Communications & Marketing, Education, and Welsh Government ratification/promotion. Dr Curran summarised some of the actions, including: developing a slide deck that could go to prescribing leads (or others) which explains the roles of AWMSG and AWTTTC; improving how AWTTTC delivers email marketing through use of cloud-based email solutions; improved presentation of resources on the website (rather than only via PDFs); increasing educational offerings such as the

upcoming 'Learning at Lunch' sessions. Dr Curran agreed to present a more final list of the actions at a future AWPAG meeting.

**Action: Dr Curran to present a more final list of actions at the December meeting of AWPAG.**

### **10.2 Prescribing decision support software update**

Mrs Claire Thomas informed the group that AWTTTC have been working with the antimicrobial pharmacist group looking at messages for Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) with regard to the ScriptSwitch programme. It was noted that most health boards already had some messaging around UTIs but AWTTTC are working with the antimicrobial pharmacists to determine the most appropriate national messages. AWTTTC are also looking at the messages available on Optimise Rx around *C.diff*. It was noted that only Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and Powys THB currently have Optimise Rx within GP practices although this may change in the future. Mrs Thomas continued that AWTTTC are still working with Optimise Rx on Prescribing Safety indicators and will update members on developments when they arise.

### **10.3 Inhaler Decarbonisation report**

Mr Richard Boldero confirmed that following discussions earlier in the meeting there was nothing further to update.

### **11.0 Best Practice Day – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Feedback**

Mrs Kath Haines gave feedback from the Best Practice Day held virtually on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022. There were 93 attendees at the meeting and the presentations all created a lot of discussion and sharing of contacts. The feedback was good and it was noted that most people are signed up to the Green Agenda. From the feedback there was emphasis on how AWTTTC can increase patient engagement and so are looking to develop patient information resources with Public Health Wales and Welsh Government. Also from the feedback it was noted that a similar event on environmental issues would be welcomed in 6-12 months. Ms Haines informed members that all presentations are now available on the AWTTTC website and that AWTTTC are working with Welsh Government on a series of Decarbonisation Strategies, the first of which will be published is on inhalers.

The Chair thanked all those involved in the Best Practice Day.

### **12.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group**

Mrs Bethan Tranter was not in attendance for this part of the meeting but sent the following: The senior roles, as part of the OCP Tier 1 for TrAMS are now out to advert. A process of how these posts will be recruited into has been articulated to support these appointments across Wales. Challenges in recruitment and retention in secondary care environments are being felt across HBs/Trusts and, this alongside wider workforce development and service sustainability work are a key focus on the workplan.

### **13.0 Feedback from Health Boards and Velindre NHS Trust**

Betsi Cadwaladr – no representative from Betsi Cadwaladr UHB in attendance.

Hywel Dda are currently thinking of topics for the prescribing management scheme, which may include green inhalers and antimicrobials.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg are undergoing organisational structure changes and are looking towards their prescribing management scheme on a three-year cycle.

Swansea Bay – there was nothing to update.

Cardiff & Vale – Mrs Clare Clement asked members for advice on issues with shared care and private providers. Discussion followed with ADHD services being highlighted, and it was suggested that there could be a review of shared care arrangements. It was also suggested the prescribing dilemmas document be revisited to update the wording in respect of shared care.

Aneurin Bevan – there was nothing to update.

Powys – there was no representative from Powys in attendance.

#### **14.0 Feedback from Public Health Wales**

Ms Rosemary Allgeier informed the group that Mrs Sian Evans is undertaking work on the Greener primary care project and decarbonisation is being promoted as part of this work.

#### **15.0 Any other business**

##### Gluten free products

The group were informed that Welsh Government has been reviewing the activity of gluten free prescribing and this may be a resource that will require a review.

##### Feedback from AWMSG Training Day

The Chair gave feedback on the success of the AWMSG Training Day held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at Cardiff City Stadium.

#### **Dates for the diary**

##### AWMSG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

Members were informed that the invites were now being sent for the AWMSG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 which will be held at Cardiff City Stadium.

**15.0 Date of next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**