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| Enclosure No: | 7/AWMSG/0809 |
| Agenda Item No: | 11 – Update on AWPAG |
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2009 COMMENCING 10.45 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

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| Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair) | GP South East Wales |
| Mrs Louise Howard-Baker | Pharmacist North Wales |
| Miss Nuala Brennan | NPHS representative |
| Mr Bill Duffield | Pharmacist North Wales |
| Mr Ken Nazareth | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Dr Hamsaraj Shetty | Secondary Care Consultant – South East Wales |
| Mrs Delyth Simons | Pharmacist Mid & West Wales |
| Mr Jonathan Simms | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Dr David Webb | Secondary Care Consultant |
| Mr Jeremy Felvus | NHSIF member |
| Mr John Guy | NHSIF member |
| Dr Richard Greville | NHSIF member |
| Ms Katie Panton | NHSIF member |

In attendance

Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership / WeMeReC)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Dave Hopkins (Health Solutions Wales)

Key of abbreviations

| | |
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| 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 |

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| 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, particularly those representing the NHS Industry Forum who had been nominated to attend the joint morning session. Members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

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 John Terry, Chief Pharmacist – South West Wales
Mrs Judith Vincent, Pharmacist South West Wales
Mr David Webb, Consultant South West Wales

Not in attendance

Dr Martin Duerden
Dr Adam Southan
Mrs Debbie Davies

3. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. The following interests in relation to agenda item 5 were declared:
Mr Jeremy Felvus confirmed several interests pertaining to the prescribing indicators
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty confirmed an interest in Bayer Pharmaceuticals

4. Chair's report

The Chair confirmed Dr Mark Daniels had resigned from the Group
Dr Adam Southan had been appointed to represent general practice South East Wales.

It was agreed that the following would be included as standing agenda items for future meetings:

Feedback from HoPMMs – designated lead Mr William Duffield

Feedback from 1000 Lives – designated lead Mrs Louise Howard Baker

Feedback from Chief Pharmacists – Chair to invite Mr John Terry to be designated lead

ACTION

WMP to include on the agenda for future meetings

5. Antiplatelet template – update

The Chairman provided the background and confirmed the purpose of the document to provide a guide to usual practice. Members were informed that the document had been circulated widely for comment, the deadline for comments had been extended, and the comments received had been circulated to members (on 18th May). The lead had not been able to attend the meeting and the template document had not been updated in light of the comments received prior to the meeting. The group discussed the comments received. The Chair confirmed that Mr Stuart Evans had agreed to respond to the consultation comments. A suggestion was made that the final version should be forwarded to all who had responded to the consultation. The deadline for receipt of papers prior to the AWMSG meeting was confirmed by the WMP representative.

ACTION

SE to update template in light of all consultation comments received

WMP representative to lodge enquiry to WMIC for information

Members to agree final version electronically prior to consideration by AWMSG in August

6. National indicators 2010-2011

The Chair invited Mr Jonathan Simms to provide an update in relation to the National Indicators. Mr Simms confirmed the process of development and format of the indicator paper had remained the same as previous documents. He highlighted the salient issues of the paper. It was confirmed that the document had been circulated prior to the meeting to members of the NHS Industry Forum. Dr Lewis invited meeting attendees to comment. Mr Simms noted typographical errors and format changes and agreed to update the document in light of the discussion and present to AWMSG at their next meeting in August. Mr Simms conveyed the working group's concern over the validation of the indicators in light of the withdrawal of funding for WAPSU.

Ms Nuala Brennan joined the meeting.

It was confirmed that clarification had been sought from the Welsh Assembly Government representative that the Medicines Reconciliation indicator should not be included in the AWMSG national indicators. The Chair conveyed the interest of Welsh Medicines Partnership in Yellow Card reporting as a national indicator for 2011-2012. The working group agreed to reconsider this in consultation with Fiona Woods.

Members agreed that it would be useful to compare the Welsh national indicator prescribing data with English data at the next AWPAG meeting. Mr Simms suggested

linking with Ms Fiona Walker and Mr Dave Hopkins outside of the meeting and will bring a paper for discussion at a future AWPAG meeting.

ACTION

Mr Jonathan Simms and Mr Dave Hopkins to liaise with Fiona Walker regarding comparison of Welsh and English data

Mr Jonathan Simms to update indicator paper in light of the discussion and present to AWMSG in August

7. National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA)

The Chair welcomed Mrs Julie Rix from the National Patient Safety Agency and invited Mrs Rix to explain how NPSA links into Wales. The Chair confirmed that in line with the recommendations of the medicines strategy for Wales AWPAG were keen to encourage links with NPSA and improve communication, particularly with regard to audit and highlighting areas of concern in relation to patient safety. Good practice points from different regions included themed feedback incident reports, the use of multidisciplinary learning (including local authority and voluntary sectors) and the use of the GP Quality and outcomes Framework to promote the National Reporting & Learning System. The potential for introducing NPSA targets into the National Prescribing Indicators was raised.

ACTION

Mrs Rix to provide AWPAG with advance notice of the NPSA work programme

8. Implementing NICE / AWMSG guidance

Mrs Karen Samuels of the Welsh Medicines Partnership provided the background and explained that AWMSG were keen to have quantitative information in relation to the health technology appraisals undertaken and impact on NHS Wales. Members were in agreement that collation of statistics would be inadequate, as interpretation of data collected, particularly regarding place in therapy, would be required. Dr Greville provided members with the background to a pilot study currently being developed with Health Solutions Wales who have agreed to provide a single source of information. An outline of the study was tabled and Mr John Guy, NHSIF lay member, expressed his support for measuring results to benefit patients in Wales. Dr Greville confirmed he would be happy to share the information and receive any comments. The group clarified that the implementation of both technology appraisals and clinical guidelines was important. The Chair confirmed this project had been identified as a potential item for joint working between AWPAG and NHSIF. Members discussed current practice and resources used within NHS Wales for monitoring and implementing NICE and AWMSG guidance.

ACTION

Identified as potential joint project with NHSIF.

Karen Samuels to convey support and comments to AWMSG Steering Committee

9. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

Matters arising:

Diabetes consensus guidelines

The Chair confirmed that outstanding issues relating to the interpretation of NICE and the consensus guidelines, notably the statin and HbA1C target, had been raised with Helen Husband at Welsh Assembly Government. At the previous AWPAG meeting Mrs Fiona Walker had been nominated as AWPAG representative and contact had been made with Welsh Assembly Government. The response received from WAG clarified that AWPAG/AWMSG input into the review of the guideline was not required at this time.

The Chair reported that a WAG group was developing advice for the Minister regarding cardiovascular risk. Attempts had been made by AWPAG/AWMSG to ensure that the service received consistent messages particularly in light of the existing AWMSG lipid template. AWPAG/AWMSG are awaiting clarification of the guidance being developed.

Special formulations

Mr Jonathan Simms confirmed he would make contact with Mr Dave Roberts, AWMSG's Chief Pharmacist Representative, to progress this issue. Mrs Alison Hughes, Ynys Mon LHB and member of the interface pharmacist group has agreed to be involved in a task and finish group, if required.

ACTION

Mr Jonathan Simms to contact Mr Dave Roberts

10. National thromboprophylaxis guidance update

The Chair welcomed Dr Simon Noble, Chair of the Thromboprophylaxis Working Group and invited him to provide the background to the discussion. Dr Noble referred members to the draft guidance documents outlining the procedure for thromboprophylaxis for acute surgical admissions, elective surgical admissions, acute orthopaedic (trauma) admissions, elective orthopaedic admissions and medical prophylaxis and invited comment. Members discussed the content of the draft guidance and made a number of suggestions including the addition of black triangle symbols. It was noted that Dr Hamsaraj Shetty, Consultant Stroke Physician, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, had been nominated as AWMSG/AWPAG link with the working group and had input into the development of the guidance. Dr Noble welcomed and noted the comments.

11. Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme audit 2010/2011

NSAID audit

The Chair confirmed that links had been established with PCQIS regarding the development of the National Prescribing Centre NSAID audit. Dr Susanna Jacks had been unable to attend the meeting but had agreed to lead in progressing this agenda item and Mrs Louise Howard Baker and Mr Ken Nazareth offered to assist

ACTION

Sub-group to develop paper for discussion at future AWPAG meeting

Amiodarone

The Chair invited suggestions on options to improve prescribing for patients started on amiodarone some years ago. The group was informed that an enhanced service is unlikely to be available to address these 'historical' patients. Concerns in relation to the safety aspects of prescribing amiodarone were noted.

The development of regional guidance and options for improving uptake were discussed, including use of QoF prescribing visits and local audit. Members were asked to provide WMP with examples of audit templates for display on the AWMSG website.

The interface pharmacist suggestion to work with the cardiac networks was endorsed. It was suggested that a joint project, 'Improving safety in relation to prescribing of amiodarone to historical patients,' with members of NHSIF be proposed to the AWMSG Steering Committee.

ACTION

Members to provide amiodarone audit template for AWMSG website

Mrs Howard Baker to bring local guidance to next AWPAG meeting

TL to liaise with cardiac networks

Chair to propose joint project with NHSIF to AWMSG Steering Committee

12. Local comparators

The Chair tabled the list of local comparators identified currently and invited comment. AWMSG had requested that inappropriate generics remain a local comparator as it had been removed from the list of National indicators. The following were noted:

- Amiodarone to be included as Defined Daily Dose (DDD) per 1000 Prescribing Unit (PUs).
- Specials, where a suitable alternative exists, will be included. Mr Jonathan Simms will provide the basket to HSW to enable monitoring of specials at Local Health Board Level.
- HSW to list local comparators on website, for use by HoPMMs
- Members to comment electronically on UKMi document with a view to updating the Inappropriate generic basket.

ACTION

Mr Dave Hopkins to investigate the setting up of substitution basket for specials

Chair to circulate UKMi document to members for comment

13. Incentivising secondary care

Dr David Webb and Mr John Terry were unable to attend the meeting and provide members with an update on the development of an exemplar for incentivising secondary care. The group felt that this was an important piece of work and would welcome discussion at a future meeting. Mrs Howard Baker agreed to be involved in the sub group.

ACTION

Dr David Webb, Sub-group Lead, to provide exemplar for discussion at next Meeting

14. Low Molecular Weight Heparin prescribing

The Chair invited Mr William Duffield to present the review of the use of low molecular weight heparins (LMWH) in primary care. Data from sample practices across Wales on the following criteria had been collected, collated and was presented to the Group:

- Type of LMWH
- Indication
- Initiated by
- Duration of treatment specified

- Responsibility for monitoring
- The practice list size

Members agree that there is not currently sufficient guidance/information available to support prescribers in primary care. The data collection suggested that a significant volume of prescribing of LMWH in primary care related to use in pregnancy and cancer patients. Dr Lewis informed members that Gwent LMC had outlined their concern in relation to the issue of prescribing LMWH in primary care. It was noted that the issue of monitoring should be clarified and that the suitability of primary care prescribing should formally be assessed using the AWMSG criteria.

ACTION

Review shared care criteria for use of LMWH in pregnancy and cancer patients, TL/Interface Pharmacists to liaise with Dr Simon Noble to develop a discussion paper for consideration by AWPAG

15. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists Group

The draft agenda for the meeting of the Welsh Interface Pharmacists on Friday, 3rd July 2009 was provided to members for information. The Chair drew members' attention to the following issues.

Subcutaneous Methotrexate – shared care protocol

The Chair confirmed that the shared care template for the prescribing subcutaneous methotrexate had been endorsed by AWMSG in June 2009 with the exclusion of administration by carers.

Diclofenac use in hospitals

The Chair reported that the Interface Pharmacists had discussed, as requested by AWPAG, the use of diclofenac 'first line' in hospitals. The availability of pre-packs for various preparations was raised. Members were keen to seek the views of Mr John Terry, Chief Pharmacist representative.

ACTION

Mrs Delyth Simons agreed to compile data and bring a paper back to AWPAG for discussion when Mr John Terry would be present

Enhanced services

The issue of enhanced service in relation to leflunomide, azathioprine, subcutaneous intramuscular methotrexate and amiodarone is being considered by the Interface Pharmacists.

Prescribing tacrolimus (Advagraf®)

The Chair confirmed that the Interface Pharmacist Group addressed the issue of the most appropriate place for the prescribing tacrolimus (Advagraf®). Members were referred to the draft minutes of the AWMSG June meeting and advice to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the availability of tacrolimus within NHS Wales.

Discharge from hospital of patients on dosette boxes

The Chair conveyed the concern of the Interface Pharmacists over the differing practice across NHS Wales. Statutory requirements were discussed. Ms Nuala Brennan informed the group of work previously undertaken and agreed to provide the paper for the next meeting.

ACTION

Ms Nuala Brennan to provide paper for next AWPAG meeting

Chair to discuss with Mr John Terry

16. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting June 2009

The Chair drew members' attention to the AWMSG draft minutes of the meeting held in June 2009 and the paper entitled 'Medication safety and health information exchange across Wales'. A request was made for clarification as to whether aripiprazole (Abilify®) is suitable for shared care.

ACTION

WMP to address this issue

17. Any other business

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

18. Date and time of future meetings:

Wednesday, 21st October 2009 at 10.45 am (venue to be confirmed)