

<b>Enclosure No:</b>	<b>9/AWMSG/0713</b>
<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	13 – Minutes of AWPAG meeting June 2013
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## **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

**Minutes of meeting held**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 commencing 9.30 am**  
**At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD**

### **Members**

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Vice Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Jane Barnard	Lay member
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr Andrew Evans	Welsh Government
Ms Sian Evans	Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers (non-voting)
Dr Richard Greville	Director ABPI (non-voting)
Mr Phil Groom	Wales Industry Member
Miss Sophie Harding	Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Susannah Jacks	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Marnel Owen	Other professions eligible to prescribe
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Dr Mark Walker	GP, Betsi Cadwaladr

### **In attendance**

Ms Kath Haines, AWTTTC  
Mrs Kate Jenkins, AWTTTC  
Miss Samantha Webster, AWTTTC

### **Key of abbreviations**

AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSGSC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (Formerly called the Prescribing Incentive Scheme)
CPW	Community Pharmacy Wales
DH	Department of Health
GP	General Practitioner
MHRA	Medicines Health and Regulatory Authority
MMPB	Medicines Management Programme Board
NMG	New Medicines Group

NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
PSU	Prescribing Support Unit
SLA	Service Level Agreement
T&FG	Task and Finish Group
UHB	University Health Board
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
WG	Welsh Government
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre

## 1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting, invited members to introduce themselves and welcomed Mr Andrew Evans representing Welsh Government.

## 2.0 Apologies

Dr Ashok Rayani	GPC Wales
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty	Consultant, Cardiff and Vale
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sean Young	GP, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mrs Robyn Miles	Wales Industry Group

## 3.0 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4.0 Chair's report

The Chair highlighted the updated AWMSG website ([www.awmsg.org](http://www.awmsg.org)) and invited feedback to AWTTTC.

Members were advised that procurement of the All Wales Paediatric Steroid Replacement Therapy Card had been finalised via the Chief Pharmacists. The card will be issued to families of the patient by paediatricians, along with the necessary education and advice. Further supplies will be available from AWTTTC.

The Chair announced that the AWMSG Steering Committee had approved the appointment of Mrs Louise Howard-Baker as AWPAG Chair, and stated that a handover will take place before the September meeting. Mrs Howard-Baker is Clinical Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management (North-East Wales) and has been an active member of AWPAG. She has experience in both primary and secondary care therapeutic issues, having previously worked as Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, and having led work streams within the 1,000 Lives program. Expressions of interest for Vice Chair were invited and members were requested to contact AWTTTC within two weeks. The Chair reported that at the last meeting of AWMSG, the Chair, Prof Phil Routledge, had thanked the group for their continued work. The Chair also expressed her thanks to the group for all their support during her tenure. There were words of appreciation for Dr Tessa Lewis from both Ms Kath Haines on behalf of AWTTTC and Mrs Louise Howard-Baker on behalf of the group.

## 5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – March 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. Item 6 wording required amendment, changing 'EMIS codes' to 'Read codes'. It was agreed the minutes were an accurate reflection of proceedings.

### 5.1 Matters arising:

#### All Wales Review and Guidance for Prescribing Intervals (28/30-day packs)

Mr Paul Fleming gave an industry update on medicines packaging, relating to the AWMSG Review and Guidance for Prescribing Intervals, and informed the group of national developments such as the introduction of Braille packs. Mr Fleming stated that from the implementation of the European Falsified Medicines Directive, there will be a mandatory requirement for every pack to have a tamper-proof seal, and that this may present an

opportunity to implement standard pack sizes; however, the difficulties of gaining international consensus for pack size were noted. Dr Rick Greville confirmed that 28 and 30-day pack sizes will be available for the foreseeable future. Identifying the current extent of European variation would indicate the scale of the problem. The group considered that variation in pack size has a significant impact on medicines waste, and that it should potentially be considered in the AWPAG work plan.

#### **Medicines Reminder Chart: NWIS letter and minor amendment to chart**

The Chair referred members to the letter sent on behalf of AWPAG to NWIS. The letter expressed strong support for the AWMSG-endorsed, patient-held Medicine Reminder Chart, and requested an update on the associated IT development. The letter was signed by Dr T Lewis (AWPAG Chair), Prof Phil Routledge, (AWMSG Chair) and Mrs Jane Barnard (AWPAG Patient Representative). It was further endorsed by Mrs Mair Davies (Chair, Welsh Pharmaceutical Board, Royal Pharmaceutical Society) and Dr Paul Myers (Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners, Wales). Members agreed a minor amendment to the Medicine Reminder Chart at the request of RCGP. Mr Stefan Fec informed the group that he currently used a Medicines Reminder Chart which was provided by a manufacturer; however it would be preferable to have an electronic version incorporated into the pharmacy system.

#### **Action**

**Chair to ask NWIS to incorporate the MRC into the pharmacy system**

**Progress to be reviewed at September AWPAG meeting**

#### **Legislative changes regarding prescribing for erectile dysfunction**

The Chair informed the group that the legislative changes have been made and that the Prescribing Dilemmas document can now be updated.

#### **Action**

**Add update of Prescribing Dilemmas document to AWPAG work program**

### **6.0 Papers endorsed by AWMSG**

The Chair gave brief feedback on the following papers endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting on 20 March 2013:

#### **[AWMSG National Prescribing Indicators 2013–2014: Supporting information for prescribers](#)**

Now available on AWMSG website.

#### **[CEPP National Audit 2013–2014: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing](#)**

Now available on AWMSG website.

The Chair gave brief feedback on the following papers endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting on 8 May 2013:

#### **All Wales Common Ailments Scheme Formulary**

Mr Andrew Evans informed the group that Welsh Government would disseminate the formulary within the two pathfinder sites, with the launch w/c 17 June 2013. The group discussed the need to promote consistent messages to patients for the management of common ailments, and that this required engagement with GPs and Out of Hours services. There was a request that the formulary be made available via NWIS to non-pathfinder pharmacies. The formulary will be available on the AWMSG website; however, the group agreed that national distribution and education outside of the pathfinder sites may cause confusion. Mr Andrew Evans stated that Welsh Government would lead on education within the pathfinder sites in collaboration with WCPPE, RPS and local medicines management teams. Members were advised that it would be at least 18 months before it is implemented nationally.

#### **[All Wales Dyspepsia and Proton Pump Inhibitor Educational Pack](#)**

Now available on the AWMSG website.

## **7.0 Presentation – Wales Audit Office Review of Primary Care Prescribing**

The Chair welcomed Dr Malcolm Latham, Wales Audit Office, who gave a presentation on the audit of Primary Care Prescribing in Wales. The identified themes were discussed and actions required to support the WAO findings were noted. AWPAG/AWTTC representatives were identified to liaise with Mr Latham

### **Action**

**Draft document to be considered at September AWPAG meeting**

## **8.1 Gluten-Free Products – Primary Care Prescribing Analysis**

The Chair invited Ms Kath Haines to introduce the analysis of gluten-free prescribing in primary care. Members noted the data and trends. Dr Susanna Jacks provided an update regarding the Cardiff pilot for pharmacy provision. Engagement with NMMPB, National Assembly for Wales Cross Party group and Coeliac Society in Wales was agreed. It was noted that the cost of gluten-free products, per item, can be significantly higher on NHS prescription than the cost of an item from a supermarket. The group identified key recommendations, and it was agreed to update the paper following discussion, prior to consultation with stakeholders. Dr Susannah Jacks and Mrs Sarah Isaacs agreed to support the development of the updated draft.

### **Action**

**Updated draft to be presented to NMMPB and circulated to members at time of AWMSG Steering Committee**

## **8.2 Prescribing of Denosumab (Prolia®) in Wales (Review)**

The Chair informed the meeting that the current AWMSG document “Prescribing of denosumab (Prolia®) in Wales” is undergoing review. The chair sought feedback on the draft documentation and on prescribing practices from health board representatives. A subgroup meeting to discuss the review has been organised for 9 July 2013. Dr Rick Greville asked about company involvement in the review. The Chair proposed that the manufacturer have opportunity to comment on the draft paperwork for the subgroup once updated, following the AWPAG meeting. Formal consultation would be invited at a later date.

### **Action**

**Outstanding representation to be sought from health boards for subgroup meeting**

## **8.3 Prescribing of Dronedarone (Multaq®) in Wales (Review)**

The Chair introduced the draft documentation relating to the review of the AWMSG document “Prescribing status of dronedarone (Multaq®) in Wales”. The draft documentation incorporates amiodarone, flecainide and sotalol, as previously advised by AWPAG. The Chair sought feedback on prescribing practices from health board representatives and all reported that dronedarone was still “hospital only” prescribing. Mrs Kate Jenkins distributed a breakdown of prescribing data for the group of medicines and this was discussed. A subgroup meeting to discuss the review has been planned. Dr Mark Walker and Mrs Sarah Isaacs agreed to attend on behalf of the group. It was agreed that the views of the cardiovascular drugs group be sought and that the manufacturers be invited to provide comment on subgroup documentation.

### **Action**

**Document to be updated and sent to Chair of Cardiovascular Drugs Group for comment**

## **8.4 All Wales Risk/Benefit Assessment Tool for Oral Anticoagulant Treatment in People with Atrial Fibrillation**

The Chair invited Mr Alan Clatworthy and Mrs Louise Howard-Baker to introduce the All Wales Risk/Benefit Assessment Tool for Oral Anticoagulant Treatment in People with Atrial Fibrillation. The document was discussed and some amendments were suggested. It was agreed that clarification regarding prescribing for AF in patients with cancer is required. It was agreed that the document would be sent to the oral anticoagulants subgroup and industry for comment, prior to being presented to AWMSG for endorsement.

### **Action**

**AWTTC to update form prior to consultation with subgroup/industry.**

## **Final paper to AWMSG via Steering Committee.**

### **9.0 Presentation - Opioids in Palliative Care - A Patient Information Manual**

The Chair welcomed Dr Mark Taubert, specialist in palliative care, who presented a patient information manual for patients prescribed opioids in palliative care. Dr Taubert outlined the background and consultation process that has been undertaken for the manual. The presentation was well received and it was agreed that it should be progressed to AWMSG for endorsement and made available via the AWMSG website.

#### **Action**

**Manual to be presented to AWMSG Steering Committee and AWMSG for endorsement and adding to AWMSG website**

### **10.1 Review of Tramadol Prescribing**

Ms Kath Haines informed the meeting that AWTTC had received a request from Welsh Government to review the prescribing of tramadol in Wales. Ms Haines presented the prescribing analysis, and gave an outline of a GP survey and proposed toolkit to support prescribers. Dr Jacks outlined a review of tramadol prescribing in primary and secondary care in Aneurin Bevan Health Board. The Chair sought volunteers to form a subgroup; Mr Phil Groom offered his services as Chair of the ABPI Pain Group. Dr Sue Jeffs, Mrs Jane Barnard, Dr Susanna Jacks and Mrs Sarah Isaac agreed to support the work.

#### **Action**

**WAPSU to liaise with subgroup to produce a document for AWPAG meeting in September 2013**

### **10.2 CEPP National Audit – Review and selection for 2014–2015**

The Chair introduced the paper for discussion and outlined proposals received for the CEPP National Audit(s) 2014–2015. There was strong support to prioritise the following topics:

- Chronic pain (all opioids)
- [Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing](#) (endorsed by AWMSG 2013)

#### **Action**

**Audit to be developed in conjunction with tramadol work stream (see Item 13.0)**

### **10.3 AWMSG National Prescribing Indicators 2014–2015: Task & finish group meeting**

The Chair informed the meeting that the subgroup will convene on 16 July 2013. Volunteers were sought to attend the meeting; Dr Sue Jeffs and Mrs Fiona Walker agreed to attend, subject to diary commitments. The Chair and Chair elect, Mrs Louise Howard-Baker, will also attend.

### **10.4 AWMSG Medicines Strategy for Wales (Update)**

The Chair presented a draft update of the AWMSG Medicines Strategy for Wales and asked the group for comment. Comments were noted by AWTTC and will inform the development of the strategy.

#### **Action**

**Further suggestions and recommendations to be fed back to AWTTC by 30 June 2013**

### **11.1 National Prescribing Indicators 2013–2014: Analysis of Antidepressant and Dosulepin Prescribing Data**

Mrs Kate Jenkins presented data for information. This was discussed by the group and minor amendments were proposed to the presentation of the data. The target audience was discussed and provision of the data alongside the supporting information was recommended

### **11.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee**

There were no items of note.

### **12.0 Any other business**

There was no other business and the meeting closed.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 12 September 2013  
Thursday, 5 December 2013**