

DRAFT

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

**Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 9th March 2016 commencing 9.30 am
At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound,
Abergavenny, NP7 5UD**

Voting members

Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Dr Lisa Adams	General Practitioner, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr David Barnard	Lay Member
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mrs Sian Evans	Consultant, Pharmaceutical Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist, Powys
Miss Sophie Harding	Pharmacist, Velindre
Dr Peter Horvath-Howard	GPC Wales
Dr Susanna Jacks	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sally Lewis	Interim Assistant Medical Director/Primary Care Clinical Director, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Mr Gary Morris	Lecturer in Physiotherapy, Cardiff University
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf

In attendance (non-voting)

Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers
Miss Christine Collier	AWTTC
Dr Stephanie Francis	AWTTC
Ms Karen Jones	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Miss Jessica Howells	AWTTC
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
APoSM	Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSG SC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
BNF	British National Formulary
GP	General Practitioner
GPC	General Practitioners Committee
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PCQIS	Primary Care Quality and Information Service
PrescQIPP	Prescribing Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention
QOF	Quality Outcomes Framework
TDA	Therapeutic Development Assessment

1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed new members, Dr Lisa Adams, General Practitioner member and Mr David Barnard, Deputy Lay member. The Chair informed the group that Lynette James, Medicines Safety Officer for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board had also become a member of the group but was unable to attend the meeting. Lisa Williams and Laura Lowe, attending to present item 7.1 of the agenda, were welcomed to the meeting. Members introduced themselves.

2.0 Apologies

Mr Andrew Evans	Department of Health and Social Services
Dr Rick Greville	Director, ABPI Cymru Wales
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Ms Lynette James	Medicines Safety Officer, Cardiff & Vale
Dr Atir Khan	Consultant, Hywel Dda

3.0 Declarations of interest

The Chair asked for any declarations of interest. The Chair declared an interest in item 7.7 of the agenda and asked Vice Chair, Sue Jeffs, to chair the discussion. Robyn Miles declared an interest to items 7.5 and 7.7 of the agenda. David Barnard declared a personal interest in item 7.7.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair informed the meeting that there were no items of note to report.

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. Accuracy was agreed pending rewording of the paragraph on Inhaled Steroid Safety Cards on page 2 (second sentence refers to All Wales Guidelines for Asthma and COPD).

The Chair asked for an update on the following items:

National Prescribing Indicators 2015–2016

Regarding auto-filling of Yellow Cards, Bev Woods informed members that this function is active in England but greyed out in Wales. It has been suggested that it will be included in the next update. Kath Haines will contact Emma Carey for information on this.

Inhaled Steroid Safety Cards

The Chair informed members that she had contacted Dan Menzies about the development of inhaled steroid cards. Dr Menzies suggested that they should form part of a personal asthma plan.

Marketing of non-submission drugs

The marketing of non-submission drugs was raised by Alan Clatworthy and was discussed at the AWMSG Steering Committee on the 2 February 2016. AWTTTC has communicated via telephone with Alan Clatworthy regarding this.

6.0 Feedback from February 2016 AWMSG for information

Kath Haines provided feedback from the AWMSG meeting of the 24 February 2016. All of the following documents had been presented to and supported by AWMSG:

- [National Prescribing Indicators \(NPIs\) 2016–2017](#) – This document was supported. There was discussion on pregabalin and gabapentin. The ICS basket was raised and DuoResp has been included as a result. This document is now on the AWMSG website.
- [NPIs 2016–2017 – Supporting Information for Prescribers](#) – This document was endorsed and is now on the AWMSG website.
- [Secondary Care NPIs 2016–2017](#) – This document was welcomed. The section on Biosimilars was discussed and although the document emphasises that automatic substitution should not take place, it was agreed to remove the word 'substitution'. Since AWMSG, Stephanie Francis had attended the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group meeting and data collection for end of April on prophylaxis was agreed. It was confirmed that the data will be monitored quarterly.
- [NPIs 2015–2016 – Analysis of Prescribing Data to September 2015](#) – This document was presented for information.
- [All Wales Advice on the Role of Oral Anticoagulants – Update](#) – Minor wording changes were suggested by members and the document has been updated accordingly. The document will now be signed off by Stuart Linton and Saad Al-Ismael on behalf of AWMSG and then published on the website.
- [Welsh Lexicon](#) – Discussion is currently underway with suppliers via Steve Simmonds. Stefan Fec also highlighted that the RPS has been made aware of the initiative and included in discussions.

Kath Haines also fed back that the Local Comparators 2016–2017 document had been presented to AWMSG Steering Committee and was supported.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 Vitamins for Babies, Children and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

The Chair introduced Lisa Williams and Laura Low, Cardiff and Vale UHB Dieticians, who outlined the project, which they are keen to share with healthcare colleagues across Wales. The project focuses on children aged 6 months to 5 years, and the supply to these children of vitamins A, C and D, in particular vitamin D. The Healthy Start programme supplies coupons and vitamins to low-income families and signposts non-beneficiaries to pharmacies. It was noted that eligible people can experience difficulty obtaining these vitamins. It may be helpful if the vitamins were more widely available in locations where parents are using their coupons for milk and foods. The short shelf life of the vitamins is also an issue.

Susanna Jacks asked whether there was a recall/follow-up system, or are the vitamins prescribed with no further action? Peter Horvath-Howard raised section 7 – 'most families will need to purchase rather than have them prescribed by a GP' and questioned whether this would raise contractual issues. It was agreed to include NICE guidelines clarifying prescribing responsibilities in the document.

Susanna Jacks questioned whether the process for folic acid is different and suggested clarity is needed on this, together with information on when higher doses of folic acid should be prescribed.

Clarity on the Community Pharmacist role is required; Choose Pharmacy may be the best option route.

Supply routes are being expanded but communication is needed to relay the messages. Sian Evans and Bev Woods will work with authors to discuss communication to primary care.

Laura Low outlined a scheme that was run in Cardiff – with vitamins free for all for 2 years. It was suggested that schools may be a good place to get the message across and encourage parents. Laura Low stated that guidance is being delivered in pre-school settings. It was agreed to include a table of products outlining the correct products for the age groups, etc, as people are buying or being recommended the wrong vitamins.

It was agreed that the stakeholder list should increase to include doctors, nurse practitioners, obstetricians, paediatricians and school nurses.

The authors will make the necessary amendments and the updated version will be circulated electronically to AWPAG members. The document will then go to consultation before the next AWPAG meeting. The consultation should include Community Pharmacy Wales (Steve Simmonds).

Actions:

- **Authors to contact Andrew Evans regarding Choose Pharmacy.**
- **Sian Evans and Bev Woods will get together with authors to discuss communication to primary care.**
- **Authors to include a table of products in document.**
- **Authors to include NICE guideline clarifying prescribing responsibilities.**
- **Authors to include additional stakeholders.**
- **Authors to include useful contact information on website for Wales.**

7.2 Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin in Wales

The Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) in Wales document was presented along with the consultation responses received.

In light of the consultation responses it was agreed that all references to specific LMWHs should be removed. It was also agreed that a template shared care protocol, without reference to a specific LMWH, should be included in the appendices, for long-term patients only.

It was clarified that documents are scheduled for review after three years and will be reviewed sooner if new evidence is available. For this particular document it was highlighted that biosimilars may become available within the three year review window. It was agreed to include a review date on this and other documents as needed.

Changes will be made to the document and the new version will be circulated to AWPAG members with changes highlighted.

Actions:

- **All references to specific LMWHs to be removed.**
- **Include template generic shared-care protocol as Appendix.**
- **Include three-year review date.**

7.3 Prescribing of Amiodarone in Wales

The Chair presented the Prescribing of Amiodarone in Wales document and updated the group on the changes made to the document by herself and Dr Khan. Prescribing guidance has been reviewed and updated. NNT and NNH tables have been included. The audit sheet in Appendix 1 has been added. Sophie Harding raised the issue of Velindre being noted as a health board in Figure 2 on page 2 – it was agreed that this

should be changed. It was agreed that the secondary care data was not very meaningful and should be removed.

Stefan Fec highlighted *in situ* pacemakers/defibrillators and safety issues/monitoring. A change of title to *Prescribing of Amiodarone in Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter* was agreed and this indication should be reiterated throughout document.

The Chair presented the consultation responses and the group discussed.

- It was agreed that the shared care protocol was in need of updating in Section 5.7.
- The Chair is to speak to Peter O'Callaghan regarding section 5.2.1.
- AWPAG were happy with the updated flow chart.
- Members agreed that section 5.5 should be moved to before 5.2.1.
- The Chair will request clarification on certain consultation comments from Jane Fenton-May.
- Linking to BNF for interactions was suggested.
- Section 5.7 – specify need to continue monitoring.

Action: The Chair to update document and then document to be circulated to AWPAG members for comment before being presented to AWMSG.

7.4 Shared Care Protocols – Riluzole

Kath Haines presented the Shared Care Protocol for Riluzole. This protocol is a combination of protocols from Cardiff and Vale, Cambridgeshire and Birmingham. Alan Clatworthy informed the group that Morrision Hospital have an existing riluzole information sheet. Kath Haines, Fiona Walker and Alan Clatworthy to liaise, with Ken Dawson. Peter Horvath-Howard informed the group that GPs are not obliged to use shared care protocols and raised concern regarding work involved and the numbers of medicines, and sought to ensure that GPs do not feel under pressure to accept shared care agreements. Sue Jeffs suggested clarifying '*periodically*' monitoring LFTs and FBC.

Action: Kath Haines, Fiona Walker and Alan Clatworthy to liaise.

7.5 Guidance for Partnership Working

Karen Samuels presented the Guidance for Partnership Working document, which originally came out of the NHS Industry Forum. Mrs Samuels informed the group that this was a pre-existing document first published in 2004 and circulated as a Welsh Health Circular. Welsh Government has requested that this document now be updated. In the absence of the NHS Industry Forum this document was now being discussed with the TDA Users Group. It is a useful working document for industry and health care to refer to. The document has received extensive comments from the ABPI, and the current version represents an amalgamation of both ABPI and AWTTTC comments. Discussion followed regarding extending the scope to include primary care contractors. Peter Horvath-Howard raised the issue of GPs as independent contractors and stated that he was not comfortable supporting the guidance at this stage and would take the document to GPC Wales for discussion. It was clarified that this was guidance to make people think before entering into a partnership and is intended to encourage good practice. It was noted that health boards have their own policies and these vary in the way they are enforced. Sally Lewis and Sue Jeffs stated that their guidance comes from the GMC. Karen Samuels requested AWPAG members provide exemplars of good partnership working for inclusion in the appendix.

Robyn Miles, in Rick Greville's absence, informed the group of a few queries raised by the ABPI, which will be considered for inclusion.

Discussion followed regarding academic events sponsored by industry. It was agreed that this was a decision for the individual.

It was agreed that optometrists and dentists should be included in the guidance.

Following these changes, the document will be sent out to consultation (including CPW, board secretaries, MTCs).

Actions:

- **Members to forward examples of good practice to Karen Samuels.**
- **AWTTC to send out to consultation. Consultation comments to be forwarded to Karen Samuels.**

7.6 Chronic Pain Resources

Karen Jones presented the Chronic Pain Resources document. This document was very well received by the group and the amount of work that had been put into producing the document was noted.

The group discussed whether a separate comprehensive prescribing analysis was needed or whether the data in the background section was sufficient and was informed that the data can be updated now with December 2015 data. The sharing good practice section was discussed and it was agreed that it would be useful if health boards could forward further examples of good practice supported by outcomes/evidence.

There was discussion on issues around high dose prescribing and highlighting options for patients via the BPS guidelines. The importance of stopping medicines before starting others was highlighted and clarification on advice about modified-release preparations was discussed. Patient information leaflets and the use of YouTube video resources for patients such as "*Understanding Pain in less than 5 minutes*" were also discussed.

The APoSM report on tramadol was also discussed in relation to the work and AWPAG agreed that the recommendations by APoSM should be included in the resource.

Actions:

- **Update prescribing data.**
- **APoSM report recommendations/details to be included.**
- **Remove baskets and reference NPIs document on web instead.**
- **Add YouTube video link for patient information.**
- **Add MR advice to strong opioids section.**
- **AWPAG members to send in paragraph of good practice to be added to document.**
- **Send out for consultation.**

Sophie Harding and Peter Horvath-Howard left the meeting and were not present for the discussion on item 7.7 of the agenda. Sian Evans and Sally Lewis were present for part of this discussion.

7.7 All Wales Prescribing Guidelines for Asthma and COPD

Sue Jeffs chaired this item and Louise Howard-Baker presented the All Wales Prescribing Guidelines for Asthma and COPD on behalf of the authors, Dr Simon Barry and Dr Dan Menzies, who were unable to attend the meeting. Louise Howard-Baker informed the group that the asthma flow diagram is based on a Cardiff and Vale University Health Board flow chart.

The document was welcomed. It was agreed to highlight that patients should be part of the decision regarding treatment, and continuity of the same device type is beneficial to

each patient. Patient counselling is vital and it would be beneficial for every practice to receive advanced inhaler technique training.

Information on specific inhaler devices and brands in the guidance should be in line with NICE and AWMSG guidance as options and exclude cost, although cost-effective prescribing should be encouraged. Regular review and update will therefore be required.

It was suggested that the constituent drugs of combination inhalers are included and Sally Lewis highlighted Aneurin Bevan University Health Board guidance which includes this information.

Clarification on the term 'MART' is needed within the document.

It was noted that the images of the inhaler devices were very useful; however, there are a lot of inhalers and it was suggested that the images and descriptions could be included on their own page/grid on a second page; colour-coding may be an option.

It was agreed that Appendix 2 should sit nearer the flow diagrams to improve ease of use.

Stefan Fec commented that the under-assessment of asthma control/need for regular review could be brought out more clearly in the *Quick reference prescribing guide*. Also that clear directions on doses would be good practice rather than 'mdu'.

It was clarified that the health boards would be responsible for guidance implementation and the guidance applies to all adults, here referred to as 18 years and older, both new and existing patients.

Actions:

- **Louise Howard-Baker to feed back discussion to Simon Barry and Dan Menzies.**
- **AWTTC to cross check with NICE/AWMSG guidance.**
- **Clarification of term 'MART'.**
- **Sally Lewis to send ABUHB guidance on inhaler devices to AWTTC.**
- **AWTTC to send out for wider consultation following Welsh Thoracic Society meeting (including patient groups).**
- **Finalise at AWPAG June meeting.**

8.0 Verbal updates

8.1 Dose Taper and Discontinuation of Biologics in Low Disease Activity Rheumatology Patients and Review of Biologics Pathway

Alan Clatworthy gave background to the work undertaken by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. Alan Clatworthy is leading on this and had been expecting contact, which he has not received. However, he is happy to now draft the document and outlined his proposed plan:

- Consider ten-day dose titration
- Encourage biosimilar uptake and recommend as first-line treatment
- Exclude highlighting specific drugs

This proposal was supported by members.

Action: Alan Clatworthy to draft document.

8.2 All Wales NOAC Alert Card

The Chair informed the group that she was waiting to hear back from Northern England Strategic Clinical Networks about updates re antidotes. Once clarified, the card is to be circulated amongst haematologists.

8.3 Safeguarding Users of Fentanyl Patches by Standardising Patient/Caregiver Counselling

Janet Thomas has been piloting and developing the work via AWPAG. Lynette James, All Wales Medicines Safety Officer, has also been working on a similar document in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. It was agreed to pool all work undertaken for the All Wales version.

Action: Timescale to be clarified.

9.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee

Karen Samuels raised the issue of potential differences and lack of consistency between health boards regarding the use of off-label and unlicensed medicines and the need for an All Wales Policy. The Chair asked Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board for theirs and also added that the policy should cover prescribing/use and procurement of these medicines.

Stefan Fec highlighted this is an issue for community pharmacy and suggested increasing patient awareness by putting information on the prescription. A standard letter from specialist to GP may be helpful.

Louise Howard-Baker informed the group that when she requested the Alder Hey Children's Hospital's policy she was told that All England guidance will be coming out. Susanna Jacks stated that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society also have guidance coming out soon.

Action: AWPC to see updated Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board guidance on use of off-label and unlicensed medicines. Louise Howard-Baker to ask Judith to put on agenda.

10.0 Any Other Business

Membership of AWPAG had been discussed between the Chair and those members whose term was due for renewal. The following members agreed to continue their membership for a further four years: Sue Jeffs, Sophie Harding, Alan Clatworthy, Fiona Walker, Bev Woods, Stefan Fec, Sian Evans and Robyn Miles.

The Chair informed the group that Jonathan Simms and Susannah Jacks will have completed two membership terms in June 2016 and therefore the June meeting of AWPAG will be their last.

Kath Haines informed the group that AWTTTC is in the process of arranging a Best Practice Day to focus mainly on the NPI work being taken forward in health boards. No date has currently been confirmed but is likely to be towards the end of May, beginning of June. Kath Haines asked for volunteers to present their good practice on the day.

Actions:

- **AWTTTC to send out details and invite to send in good practice examples or to volunteer to share good practice at the day.**
- **AWPAG to circulate this amongst colleagues in the health boards and to feedback to AWTTTC by the deadline set.**

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22nd June 2016