

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP (AWPAG)

**Minutes of meeting held on
29th June 2022 commencing at 9.30 am via Zoom**

Chair – Dr Laurence Gray Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist, Cardiff & Vale UHB

Voting members

Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Dr Phil Cox	General Practitioner – Swansea Bay UHB
Ms Helen Davies	Prescribing Advisor – Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
Ms Sarah Davies	Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Hywel Dda UHB
Ms Sian Evans	Consultant in Public Health - Public Health Wales
Ms Hazel Hopkins	Prescribing Advisor – Hywel Dda UHB
Dr Lynette James	All Wales Consultant Pharmacist – Acute Care & Medication Safety
Mr Hywel Jones	Locality Prescribing Advisor and Lead Pharmacist for Aneurin Bevan UHB Prisons
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner – Aneurin Bevan
Mr Alan Meudell	Lay member
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI representative
Mr Darren Smith	Pharmacist – Swansea Bay UHB
Dr Richard Skone	Deputy Medical Director, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Ms Amy Williams	Other healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Mr Ben Woodhouse	Alternate Pharmacist member – Betsi Cadwaladr UHB

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
Mr David Haines	AWTTC

Presenting

Dr Emma Davies	Item 7.1 All Wales Chronic Pain Resources
Mr Lloyd Hambridge	Item 7.2 Prescribing Intervals
Mrs Julie Harris and Ms Leeanne Lewis	Item 8.1 Antibiotic Review Kit (ARK) medication chart

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 Richard Skone who was attending his first meeting as the Hospital Consultant representative for Cardiff and Vale.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Ms Rosemary Allgeier	Primary Care Senior Manager – Public Health Wales
Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Dr Gemma Rogers	General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan UHB
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC
Mr Sudhir Sehrawat	Community Pharmacist – Cardiff & Vale UHB
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist – Velindre NHS Trust

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 8.4 - Teicoplanin prescribing and monitoring guideline for adults. It was agreed that Mrs Knights would not need to leave the meeting for this section as there was no vote taking place.

4.0 Chair's report

Membership

Members were informed of the following:

New Appointments

Dr Richard Skone – Medical Director, Cardiff and Vale UHB

Dr Gemma Rogers – General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan UHB

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 – 1st December 2022

The Chair thanked members for their comments on the draft minutes and informed them that two edits have been made.

Section 8.3.1 now states “It was commented that some practitioners taper gabapentin more slowly than recommended within the SPC.”

Section 8.5 now states “It was commented that changing current tadalafil prescriptions is very challenging, but it was agreed that it remain as a reminder for new prescriptions.”

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

The actions from the last meeting were considered.

6.0 Feedback from AWMSG – 27th April, 17th May and 15th June 2022

Kath Haines gave feedback on the following:

Care homes medicines optimisation toolkit

This document was endorsed at the AWMSG meeting in April 2022 and is now published on the website.

Items identified as low value for prescribing in NHS Wales - Paper 3

This document was endorsed at the AWMSG meeting in April 2022 and is now published on the website.

Value-based prescribing

The strategy element of this document was endorsed at the May AWMSG meeting. It was agreed that further work is required for the methodology document and case study section on 'Biological medicines for severe uncontrolled asthma', which are to be brought back to a future meeting.

Tramadol patient information leaflets

The document has been endorsed and is in the final stages of Welsh translation before being uploaded to the website.

NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report – January 2022 (for information)

Quarterly reports will be presented to AWMSG for information going forward.

National Prescribing Indicators 2021–2022: Analysis of prescribing data to December 2021 (for information)

Members were informed the Quarter 4 2021-2022 report would be published on 22nd July 2022.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 All Wales chronic pain resources

The Chair welcomed Dr Emma Davies who briefly described to members the updates made to the document since it was previously presented to AWPAG. It was noted that "primary care clusters" was incorrect terminology; Dr Davies agreed to remove reference to cluster from the document. The group agreed the document should proceed to AWMSG following the edits.

Action: AWTTC to remove references to cluster before the document proceeds to AWMSG.

7.2 All Wales Guidance for Prescribing Intervals

The Chair welcomed Lloyd Hambridge to the meeting. Mr Hambridge gave members a brief overview of updates made to the document as a result of consultation comments. Rick Greville highlighted industry concerns regarding the effect of increased prescribing intervals on supply chains. Mr Hambridge confirmed that these comments had been noted, however due to the gradual move towards increasing prescribing intervals it was felt that supply chains would not be affected. Members were reminded that the recommendations were not mandatory and that the move towards a longer prescribing interval should be based on clinical judgement.

The Chair queried the potential impact on the NPIs. Mrs Claire Thomas informed members that it was difficult to confirm if the NPIs would be affected at this stage, however it had previously been discussed and a 'watch and wait' approach agreed. The group agreed that the document should proceed to AWMSG.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG.

7.3 Potential future workstreams: Review of AWMSG's guidance for partnership working

Dr Stephanie Francis gave members a brief background to the document and confirmed that ABPI and EMIG members have provided support with its update. Dr Francis highlighted that the document would be re-named as "AWMSG guidance for collaborative working" to align with current terminology. Dr Francis confirmed that the ABPI Code of Practice and supporting toolkit for collaborative working had been a particularly useful resource and was referenced accordingly throughout the document. Members were asked for any comments. The group noted that the document was easy to understand and the checklist included in the appendix was useful. Members agreed that the document would be updated to include the responsibilities of third-party operatives before being circulated to the AWTTC Industry Forum for comment. A question was raised regarding the lack of guidance for appliances, which are not governed by ABPI. AWTTC agreed to make enquiries with colleagues in Health Technology Wales (HTW).

Action: Document to be updated to include the responsibility of third-parties and then included on the July AWTTC Industry Forum agenda.
Action: AWTTC to contact HTW and explore whether there is any collaborative working guidance for Wales in relation to appliances.

7.4 Primary care engagement with medicines optimisation resources

Claire Thomas presented the Yma report to members and provided some background to the report's development. Dr Thomas Curran provided an overview of the report's recommendations and updated members on actions that had been identified. It was noted that only a small number of individuals had participated in the focus groups and survey, however it was acknowledged that primary care colleagues were dealing with Covid-19 and winter pressures at the time. Members discussed undertaking a broader survey which could be placed on the homepage of the AWTTC website.

The group discussed different ways to promote AWMSG/AWTTC, including issuing a Welsh Health Circular to primary and secondary care. The group were informed that work was underway to increase medicines optimisation capacity.

7.5 Value-based prescribing – Low value for prescribing review

Richard Boldero presented the draft recommendations. Members agreed with the majority of these as stated within the enclosure. It was agreed that the Paracetamol and Tramadol combination product should be moved from the "Optimal prescribing for increased efficiency" domain to the "Optimal prescribing for increased patient safety" domain. Ms Helen Davies highlighted the recent NICE recommendation for the use of icosapent ethyl and members agreed for this to be stated as excluded from the omega-3 fatty acid compounds basket of medicines.

The group requested that data for the retired medicines remains available for monitoring at a local level. AWTTC confirmed that these medicines would remain within the dashboard.

Action: Icosapent ethyl to be stated as not included in the omega-3 fatty acid compounds basket of medicines

Action: Updated document to be taken to AWMSG

7.6 Primary care antimicrobial guidelines (updates)

Thomas Curran informed members of updates made to the acute otitis media and chicken pox sections of the guidelines. Members were informed that an updates section had also been added to the end of the document to track changes over time. No issues were raised by members. It was agreed that the updated document should be uploaded to the AWTTC website and taken to the next available AWMSG meeting for information.

Action: Updated document to be uploaded to website

Action: Updated document to be taken to AWMSG for information

7.7 Recurrent UTI guideline (updates)

Thomas Curran informed members that the update had been focussed on newly published data on methenamine hippurate as a non-antimicrobial therapy. No issues were raised by members. It was agreed that the updated document should be uploaded to the AWTTC website and taken to the next available AWMSG meeting for information.

Action: Updated document to be uploaded to website

Action: Updated document to be taken to AWMSG for information

7.8 CEPP audit – antimicrobials (updates)

Thomas Curran informed members of the changes made to the audit documentation to align with the changes made to the 'Primary care antimicrobial guidelines' (discussed above). No issues were raised by members. It was agreed that the updated document should be uploaded to the AWTTC website and taken to the next available AWMSG meeting for information.

Action: Updated document to be uploaded to website

Action: Updated document to be taken to AWMSG for information

7.9 NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report – March 2022

Richard Boldero presented the report to members.

7.10 Inhaler decarbonisation scenarios

Richard Boldero led discussions on each of the proposed scenarios. He explained that these were put together at the request of AWMSG to inform a discussion at the September meeting around the possible implications of moving to lower carbon footprint inhalers. Members were asked their views on the suggestions and also to propose any additional ones for consideration. Mr Boldero informed members that these were to be considered as possible scenarios for patients and wording would be added to indicate that it is not suggested these would be possible for all patients. It was suggested that monitoring how many inhalers people receive would be better than how many prescriptions are issued. Mrs Claire Thomas confirmed that this is not currently possible but hopefully will be in the future. The implications of switching to a different inhaler from the patient perspective were briefly discussed.

Action: Document to be updated with data relevant to the scenarios for presenting to AWMSG for discussion

8.0 Acknowledgement Process

8.1 Antibiotic Review Kit (ARK) medication chart

Julie Harris gave members a background to the ARK study, presented the ARK hospital toolkit and provided a detailed view of the ARK chart. Members were informed that the aim of the chart is to reduce serious infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Members were informed about outcome feedback which had already been submitted for the study. It was agreed that education and awareness are key to the new process working.

Members agreed that the chart should proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

8.2 Daptomycin prescribing and monitoring guideline

Thomas Curran detailed what the acknowledgement process entailed and introduced the guidelines developed by the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group. No issues were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

8.3 Colistimethate sodium prescribing and monitoring guideline in adults

Thomas Curran introduced the guidelines developed by the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group. No issues were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

8.4 Teicoplanin prescribing and monitoring guideline for adults

Thomas Curran introduced the guidelines developed by the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group. No issues were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

8.5 Antimicrobial dosing in extremes of body weight in adults

Thomas Curran introduced the guidelines developed by the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group. No issues were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

8.6 Antimicrobial dosing in adults with renal impairment

Thomas Curran introduced the guidelines developed by the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group. No issues were raised.

Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG for acknowledgement

9.0 Verbal updates

9.1 Polypharmacy

Richard Boldero confirmed that work was still ongoing on the edits to the document before going out to consultation, which is planned for July.

9.2 Prescribing decisions support software update

Claire Thomas informed members that inhaler messages agreed at the last meeting had been added to ScriptSwitch for health boards to import into their profiles. Members were informed that messages related to the Prescribing Safety Indicators had been finalized with OptimiseRx, however there were some further issues requiring investigation. Claire Thomas informed members that she had met with the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacists group to discuss national antimicrobial messaging.

9.3 Understanding unlicensed medicines

Paul Deslandes informed members that Dr Efthymia Mantzourani was making good progress with the document and it was hoped that it could be presented at the next AWPAG meeting.

Action: Add to the September AWPAG agenda

9.4 NPI review frequency

Kath Haines informed members about the AWTTC Work Programme consultation which is aligned with the already agreed strategic priorities. Members were informed that Welsh Government were supportive of changing the NPI review frequency. The group discussed having a longer timeframe but with a caveat where items can be added or removed without a full review. The group agreed that new indicators should be implemented every 3 years.

Action: Paper to be developed with these recommendations for consideration by AWMSG.

10.0 Best Practice Day – 19th July 2022

Kath Haines reminded members about the Best Practice Day and gave a brief overview of the sessions. Members were encouraged to register via the AWTTC website.

11.0 Chief Pharmacists

Bethan Tranter gave apologies for this meeting and no updates were fed back.

12.0 Feedback from Health Boards and Velindre NHS Trust

There was nothing specific to note.

13.0 Feedback from Public Health Wales

There was nothing specific to note.

14.0 Any other business

Dates for the diary

- **AWTTC Best Practice Day** - Tuesday 19th July 2022 – Virtual
- **AWMSG Committees Training Day** - Wednesday 21st September 2022 – All Nations Centre, Cardiff
- **AWMSG 20th Anniversary Conference** - Thursday 17th November 2022 – Cardiff City Stadium

15.0 Date of next meeting: 28th September 2022