



AWTTC

All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

In Focus

Autumn 2022 - Issue 19

AWTTC Autumn Newsletter

A quarterly update featuring the latest news and insights from our multidisciplinary team.

In This Issue

July – September 2022 news from:

- **Patient Access to Medicines Service (PAMS)**
Supporting health technology appraisals and coordinating IPFR outputs.
- **Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU)**
Analysing prescribing data and developing medicines optimisation resources.
- **Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNPU)**
Providing 24-hour poisons advice to healthcare professionals.
- **Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Wales**
Monitoring adverse reactions to medicines.



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AWMSG publishes Annual Report 2021 - 2022

August 2022

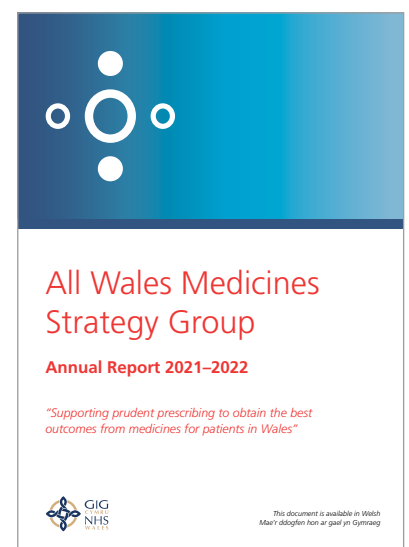
Find out about all the projects the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) has been working on throughout 2021-2022 in their latest annual report, compiled by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC).

In it we highlight the outputs from the nine virtual AWMSG meetings held during the year, including:

- 21 medicines appraised (8 full submissions, 4 limited submissions and 9 paediatric licence extensions)
- 17 Statements of Advice issued
- 14 medicine optimisation resources published
- 15 national prescribing indicators monitored throughout the year
- 9 Wales Patient Access Schemes processed.

[Read the full 2021–2022 AWMSG Annual Report](#)

[Read previous editions of the AWMSG Annual Report](#)



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Cardiff and Vale UHB Chair visits AWTTC to find out about our ground-breaking work

August 2022

AWTTC were delighted to welcome Charles Janczewski Chair of Cardiff and Vale UHB to their offices to meet the team and find out more about the work of the organisation and the committees it supports.

Ruth Lang, Senior Liaison Manager for AWTTC and Tony Williams, Head of PAMS (Patient Access to Medicines) for AWTTC met with Mr Janczewski and Peter Welsh, General Manager of Llandough and Barry Hospitals at their offices in the Routledge Academic Centre in Llandough Hospital.

“It was fantastic to be able to share the important work of AWTTC,” said Ruth. “We’ve achieved so much in our 20 years since AWMSG was established and we will be celebrating the achievements at our conference in November. We’re excited to see what the next 20 years will bring.”

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AWTTC partners with international health technology assessment bodies to boost collaboration on shared challenges

September 2022

Six health technology assessment (HTA) bodies from three continents will join forces to collaborate on a range of topics to benefit people accessing health care around the world.

[Read more here.](#)

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Updates to AWMSG recommendations review process including publication of new static list

July 2022

Changes to the way AWMSG final appraisal recommendations are reviewed, including the publication of a ‘static’ list, have been implemented. The updated review process was endorsed by the AWMSG Steering Committee and supported by the AWTTC Industry Forum.

[Read more here.](#)



AWTTC and HTW renew their pledge to continue to work together

AWTTC and Health Technology Wales have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding, pledging to continue supporting each other's work.

The two organisations have worked in collaboration since 2020, sharing expertise and access to networks of experts. Both organisations carry out health technology assessment, however AWTTC's remit is to appraise medicines while HTW focusses on non-medicine health technologies.

Through the partnership they have benefited from two-way peer reviews and quality assurance processes to support their appraisal functions.

AWTTC delivers a portfolio of services in therapeutics and toxicology, including health technology appraisal of medicines. Its staff work on health technology assessments; medicines optimisation, medicines safety and toxicology; and analysing prescribing data.

The organisation has representation on several of Health Technology Wales' groups, including the Appraisal Panel and Front Door Signposting Group.

Karen Samuels, Head of Health Technology Appraisal, Medicines Management and Programme Director AWTTC, said: "At AWTTC our ethos is to work pro-actively to deliver a range of services which support the best use of medicines to help patients in Wales.

"This renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding by AWTTC and HTW is an extension of our robust working relationship and provides an ideal opportunity for us to work collaboratively which undoubtedly improves quality for Welsh patients."

HTW Director, Dr Susan Myles, added: "Our partnership with AWTTC has brought important mutual benefits for each organisation, including the opportunity to share knowledge and we look forward to building on this relationship."



AWMSG 20th Anniversary conference

September 2022

In November we will be celebrating 20 years since AWMSG was established and everything that has been achieved in that time.

Joining us at the event on **November 17th** will be Professor Philip Routledge, who was instrumental in setting up AWMSG, Wales' Health Minister Eluned Morgan, Dr Samantha Roberts, Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Dame June Raine, Chief Executive of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner and Dr Richard Torbett, ABPI Chief Executive.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) for more information on how to register.

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AWMSG training day at Cardiff City Stadium

September 2022

This year's AWMSG training day which took place on September 21st at Cardiff City Stadium had it all – singing, dancing and a ukulele.

Iolo Doull AWMSG Chair opened the day before Ian Govier from Academi Wales who is also a competent ukulele player, gave a passionate and interesting talk on Leadership on Ice: the definitive tale of 'lockdown' leadership whilst getting attendees out of their comfort zone dancing and singing.

The afternoon included presentations by Professor Dyfrig Hughes on the Value of HTA and AWMSG decision making, Heidi Graham from ABPI spoke on Disclosure UK and Kath Haines and Richard Boldero from WAPSU presented on theNational Prescribing Indicators (NPIs).

Another very successful day of learning.

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AWTTC reports on Statements of Advice (SOAs) issued by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

September 2022

AWTTC has produced reports looking at the trend and number of SOAs issued over a five-year period, and exploring the impact on medicine availability in Wales compared with the other nations of the UK.

[Read more here.](#)

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Best Practice Day July

July 2022

AWTTC successfully hosted a virtual Best Practice Day on 19 July 2022. This was an online event focused on the environmental impact of medicines and shared some of the excellent medicines optimisation work going on across Wales in support of the NHS Wales decarbonisation strategy.

Videos for each of the presentations from the day are available [here](#).

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AWTTC launches new research pages

August 2022

The vital work of our Research team is now available on our website opening up their studies from the last 16 years.

With more than 350 publications including a full list of journal articles, letters, conference posters and published poster abstracts, conference talks, books, book sections and fellowships that have been produced by AWTTC since 2006.

[Read more here.](#)

**PAMS**
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaetha

IPFR publishes Annual Report 2021 – 2022

September 2022

Reporting on the work of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) teams across Health Boards and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) for patients in Wales, the latest annual report has been compiled by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC).

[Read more here.](#)

**PAMS**
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaetha

New medicines advice for NHS Wales

July 2022

Welsh Government has approved advice from the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) for 2 medicines.

[Read more here.](#)

**WAPSU**
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Uned Cymorth Presgripsiynu Dadansoddiol Cymru

Tramadol educational resources – Patient Information Leaflets published

July 2022

The resources were first developed in 2013 as a response to a request by Welsh Government. This update has reviewed the current evidence base and revised the information in the resources within the wider context of pain management.

[Read more here.](#)

**WAPSU**
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Uned Cymorth Presgripsiynu Dadansoddiol Cymru

Antimicrobial guidance receives minor updates

July 2022

A few updates were made to recently published antimicrobial guidelines developed with the All Wales Antimicrobial Pharmacist Group, to take account of other more recent national guidance and trial outcomes:

- [Primary care antimicrobial guidelines](#)
- [CEPP National Audit – focus on antibiotic prescribing](#)
- [Management of recurrent symptomatic urinary tract infection in adult women](#)

**WAPSU**
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Uned Cymorth Presgripsiynu Dadansoddol Cymru

National Prescribing Indicators 2021 –2022: Quarterly reports

July 2022

National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) for 2021–2022 include indicators for primary and secondary care, with a focus on three priority areas:

- Analgesics in primary care
- Anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation
- Antimicrobial stewardship

[Read more here.](#)**WAPSU**
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Uned Cymorth Presgripsiynu Dadansoddol Cymru

NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint reports – Reports up to June 2022 now published

September 2022

The Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU), the analytical unit of AWTTC, has developed a dashboard to report on progress in reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers used within primary care in Wales.

[Read more here.](#)**WAPSU**
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Uned Cymorth Presgripsiynu Dadansoddol Cymru

Nomination for AWTTC staff at the Welsh Pharmacy Awards

July 2022

Kath Haines and Wendy Casey from AWTTC joined representatives from The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) as finalists in the Welsh Pharmacy Awards held at The Vale Resort in Hensol. They were nominated in the Innovative Technology Project of the Year category for their collaborative working on implementing advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) using the Blueteq High Cost Drugs software.

It was a fantastic night and, although they didn't come away with a win, it's great recognition of this collaborative project.

**WNPU**
Welsh National Poisons Unit
Uned Gwenwynau Canedlaethol Cymru

WNPU Attends North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, San Francisco, USA, September 2022

September 2022

The National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) was able to present three posters focused on poisons enquires regarding insulin, fatal propranolol overdoses, and a major incident early warning system developed by NPIS; all posters were well received and attracted considerable interest from delegates.

[Read more here.](#)



Yellowcard
Centre
Wales

Yellow Card Centre roadshow

YCC Wales has been raising awareness of the Yellow Card scheme amongst members of the public with information stands at Morrisons Caerphilly and the Pembrokeshire County Show.

During these events YCC Wales had the opportunity to speak with more than 250 people about the importance of reporting suspected adverse drug reactions to the Yellow Card scheme.

They also made contact with local charities and support groups including a lupus support group, thyroid charity, Age Cymru and St John’s ambulance. YCC Wales will continue to attend public events to raise awareness of this important scheme.



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The sky’s the limit for Cliff

July 2022

AWMSG former lay member Cliff Jones, recently fulfilled a lifetime ambition of completing a skydive.

Cliff, who up until recently sat on the committee, decided to make the leap for charity raising more than £2,000 for the Alzheimer’s Research UK.

“I enjoyed it,” said Cliff. “It was an unusual experience and hard to describe but for a moment it’s scary as you’re travelling 120mph but after the parachute has been deployed and you’re floating about the Welsh coastline it was enjoyable.

“This is something I’ve always wanted to do and now I’m 80 you get to the bucket list stage and I’m so glad I did it – but I am thinking of what I can do next.



If you would like to contribute to Cliff’s fundraising [click here](#).



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To give feedback or join the AWTTC mailing list email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk