



AWTTC

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Newsletter July 2026

If you would like this edition in Welsh please email awttc@wales.nhs.uk

AWTTC News



National Pharmacogenomics Oversight Committee meets

Chaired by AWTTC's Programme Director Dr Andrew Champion and facilitated by the Genomics Partnership Wales (GPW), the National Pharmacogenomics Oversight Committee brings together partners from across NHS Wales to provide strategic oversight of the all-Wales pharmacogenomics programme.

The committee plays a key role in driving a coordinated approach to implementation, supporting the safe adoption of pharmacogenomics into routine clinical practice and advancing personalised healthcare for patients across Wales.

Pharmacogenomics is helping to shape the future of prescribing in NHS Wales. By using genetic information to better understand how individuals respond to medicines, healthcare professionals can make more informed prescribing decisions, supporting safer, more effective and personalised treatment.



AWTTC colleagues shortlisted for NHS Wales Award

Congratulations to AWTTC colleagues Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist and Dr Katt Chaplin, Senior Scientist, whose work, 'The Five-Day Shift: Using Data to Optimise Antibiotic Course Duration Across NHS Wales', has been shortlisted in the NHS Wales Information Award category at the NHS Wales Awards 2026.

The entry was selected from a record number of high-quality submissions, with judges recognising its impact and contribution to improving healthcare across Wales.

As finalists, the team have been invited to showcase their work through a poster, which will be displayed online and at the NHS Wales Awards ceremony in November. NHS Wales colleagues will also have the opportunity to vote for the category

The benefits of pharmacogenomics include reducing adverse drug reactions or improving treatment response and helping patients receive the right medicine at the right dose first time, leading to better health outcomes across Wales.

winners. Voting closes at 5pm on Thursday 17 September.

Congratulations to Shaila and Katt on this fantastic achievement, and we wish them the very best of luck in the final.

[Vote here](#)



The date for our next PAPIG meeting in September

Join us for the next Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) meeting, taking place virtually on Thursday 17 September 2026, from 10am to 11am.

This meeting will feature a presentation on Your Medicines, Your Health, an All Wales platform being developed to help people make informed decisions about their medicines, support conversations with healthcare professionals, and get the best possible health outcomes from the medicines they take.

We welcome patients, carers and members of the public to take part. Your experiences and perspectives are vital in shaping information and resources that are clear, useful and accessible. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions, share your views and contribute to the discussion.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a regular participant, we would be delighted to welcome you to this free online event.

[Find out more](#)



ILAP grants Innovation Passports to investigational products for cancer and dementia

Two investigational medicines – one for liver cancer and one for dementia with Lewy bodies – have been awarded Innovation Passports through the UK's Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP), a collaborative programme that AWTTTC is proud to support alongside its UK partners.

Innovation Passport designation is awarded to products that could address unmet clinical need and show potential to deliver significant benefits for patients.

[Read more](#)



All Wales guide to prescribing gluten-free foods (consultation)

Originally published in 2013 and last updated in 2018, this latest update to the document is intended to review the content and layout of the document to make sure it is still appropriate for use, and also to incorporate reference to the new card-based Gluten-Free Food Scheme (GFFS) that is now being rolled out across Wales.

Closing date: Friday 14th August 2026

[Read more](#)



All Wales implementation framework for biological medicines in COPD (consultation)

The framework has been developed by the National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions with the support of the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC). It will support a controlled, clinically led implementation of biological medicines for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) in Wales.

Closing date: Tuesday 18th August 2026

[Read More](#)



All Wales wet (neovascular) age-related macular degeneration prescribing guidelines (consultation)

The guidelines aim to provide a consensus on general principles for starting, pausing and stopping treatment, the choice of treatment, and treat-and-extend rules that can be applied for biosimilar anti-VEGFs across NHS Wales. The guidelines are for the use of medical and clinical staff and provide information for NHS commissioners and governance.

Health Technology Assessment VPAG (Wales) Investment Programme Board

The Health Technology Assessment VPAG (Wales) Investment Programme Board met on 16 July 2026, bringing together representatives from across NHS Wales to support the delivery of the programme in Wales.

The Board provides strategic oversight of the VPAG work programme, which aims to ensure timely and equitable access to clinically and cost-effective medicine, strengthen assessment processes and enhance data-driven decision making.

The VPAG project leads provided an update on the four areas of work: horizon scanning and financial forecasting, medicines ecosystem, unlocking data and implementation. Members discussed the programme delivery metrics and noted the progress made across the four projects. The Chair congratulated the

team on the feedback received from the UK Investment mid-point review and acknowledged the strong collaborations that had been established with national organisations to help deliver the ambitions set out in the VPAG (Wales) Investment Programme.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

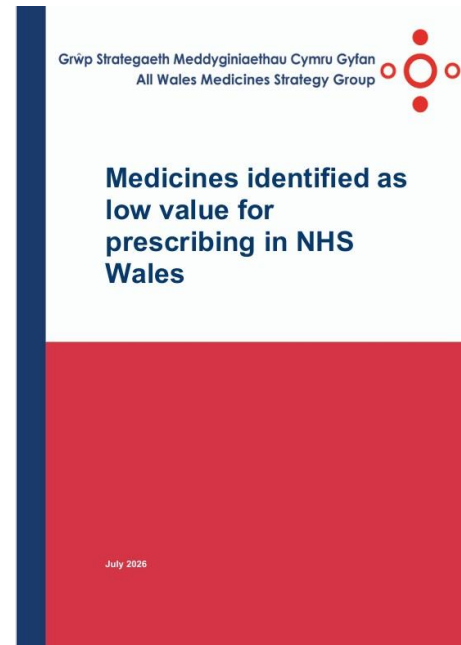


Published: History-based penicillin allergy de-labelling in adults

Evidence indicates that more than 90% of patients labelled with a penicillin allergy are not allergic to penicillin when formally assessed. In many cases, the allergy label may be due to an adverse reaction that occurred during a course of penicillin in childhood.

This guidance is relevant to all registered healthcare professionals and can be used to support identification of people who have a very low risk of having a true penicillin allergy, for whom it is safe to remove the penicillin allergy label based on history alone.

[Read more](#)

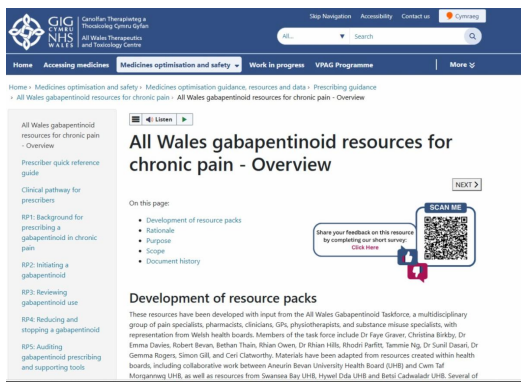


Published: Medicines Identified as Low Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales

The All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AWMSG) has endorsed the resource, developed by All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) with support from AWTTC.

The guidance aims to support safe, effective and efficient prescribing by identifying medicines that should not routinely be prescribed because more cost-effective alternatives exist, evidence of benefit is limited, or there are safety concerns.

[Read more](#)

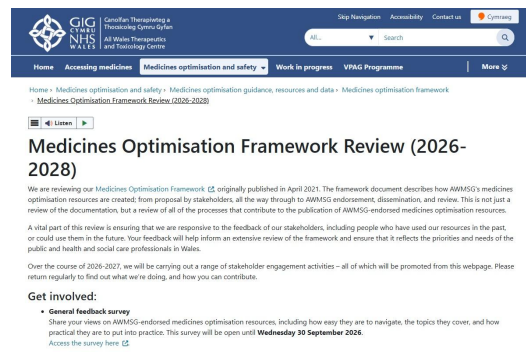


Published: The ‘All Wales gabapentinoid resources for chronic pain’

These resources have been developed with input from the All Wales Gabapentinoid Taskforce, a multidisciplinary group of pain specialists, pharmacists, clinicians, GPs, physiotherapists, and substance misuse specialists, with representation from Welsh health boards.

The resource materials aim to support safe and effective prescribing by providing guidance on appropriate use, balancing the potential benefits against harms, and encouraging a holistic approach to pain management.

[Read more](#)



We need your feedback - AWMSG medicines optimisation resources

We have a range of feedback surveys open until Wednesday 30 September, allowing you to input into our review of our Medicines Optimisation Framework which describes how AWMSG's medicines optimisation resources are created; from proposal by stakeholders, all the way through to AWMSG endorsement, dissemination, and review.

[Find out more here](#)



AWTTC hold staff away day

The event provided an opportunity for staff to reconnect, share updates and discuss priorities for the year ahead.

Colleagues from the Welsh Medicines Advice Service (WMAS) joined the meeting, giving everyone the chance to strengthen relationships and learn more about each other's roles and areas of



AWTTC staff take on the annual Cosmeston Relay Run

Staff from AWTTC returned to the annual Cosmeston Relay Run, held in the beautiful surroundings of Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.

expertise following WMAS joining
AWTTC earlier this year.

We look forward to the next away day
at the end of the year.

The annual 5k relay continues to be a
highlight of the AWTTC calendar,
promoting wellbeing, teamwork and a
sense of community in a fantastic
outdoor setting.

Congratulations to everyone who took
part!

Patient Access to Medicine Service (PAMS) News

NHS Wales Blueteq medicines list

The Blueteq HCD system is used to authorise use of
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
(NICE) and All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
(AWMSG) approved high cost drugs across a whole
range of healthcare conditions.



The medicine list has been updated. You can access the latest version of the list [here](#).

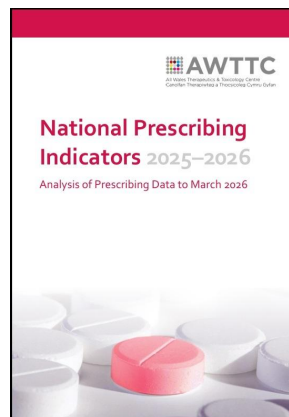
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Unit (WAPSU) News



Latest 'NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint reports' and 'NHS Wales prescribing interval reports' published

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](#)



National Prescribing Indicators 2025-2026: Analysis of prescribing data to March 2026

The National Prescribing Indicator (NPI)
report, analysing data for the quarter
ending March 2026, has been
published.

[Read more](#)

Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNPU) News



Medical Toxicology 2026

The Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNPU) will be hosting their annual Medical Toxicology course at the Leonardo Hotel in Cardiff on 9-10 October 2026.

The event is for health professionals interested in learning more about medical toxicology.

[Read more](#)

Yellow Card Centre Wales (YCC) News

Safe storage of medicine in extreme temperatures

Extreme temperatures can affect medicines in hot weather, make sure all medicines are stored appropriately and remember to report any suspected side effects here

[Read more](#)



Welsh Medicines Advice Centre (WMAS) News

Common Ailments Service

July 2026 updates

Effective from 01 July 2026, the following materials have been updated to support the Common Ailments Service (CAS) component of the Clinical Community Pharmacy Service in Wales.

The All Wales CAS formulary monographs, available on the [AWTTC website](https://awttc.nhs.wales/) (<https://awttc.nhs.wales/>) for:

- acne vulgaris
- athlete's foot
- chickenpox (in children under 14 years of age)
- dry eye
- dry skin
- fungal skin infections (body and groin)
- haemorrhoids
- headlice
- ingrowing toenail
- nappy rash
- oral thrush
- vulvovaginal thrush

All associated PGD templates are available on the [WMAS website](#)

The CAS Condition Reference Guide for community pharmacists and Patient Information Leaflets (available in English and Welsh) are on the [WMAS website](#) (www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/)

www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/ [wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/](https://www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/) [wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/](https://www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/common-ailments-service-hcp/)

PGD and VGD templates

New / updated versions available

Influenza

RSV

Valid from September 2026
Published now to support local adoption, governance approval processes and rollout in NHS Wales organisations / commissioned services

[#OnceForWales #PGD #VGD](#)

www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/pgd-templates-advice/ [wmas.wales.nhs.uk/pgd-templates-advice/](https://www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/pgd-templates-advice/) [wmas.wales.nhs.uk/pgd-templates-advice/](https://www.wmas.wales.nhs.uk/pgd-templates-advice/)

Common Ailments Service July 2026 updates

Effective from 01/07/2026, the following materials have been updated to support the Common Ailments Service component of the Clinical Community Pharmacy Service in Wales.

The All Wales Common Ailments Service Formulary monographs (available on the [AWTTC website](https://awttc.nhs.wales/)) for:

Patient Group Directions (PGD) templates and guidance

The following Patient Group Direction (PGD) and Vaccine Group Direction (VGD) templates have been approved and published to support the National Influenza Immunisation Programme 2026-2027 and the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination programme for older adults in Wales:

- acne vulgaris
- athlete's foot
- chickenpox (in children under 14 years of age)
- dry eye
- dry skin
- fungal skin infections (body and groin) previously known as ringworm (tinea corporis), tinea cruris and intertrigo
- haemorrhoids
- headlice
- ingrowing toenail
- nappy rash
- oral thrush
- vulvovaginal thrush

All associated PGD templates are available on the Welsh Medicines Advice Service website.

[Read more](#)

New VGD templates:

- Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) 2 years and over v1.0
- Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) 2 years to under 18 years v1.0
- Due for publication by 21 August: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults VGD v1.0

New PGD templates:

- Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) 6 months to under 2 years v1.0

Updated PGD templates:

- Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) by registered community pharmacy professionals v5.0
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults v4.0

[Read more](#)

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