



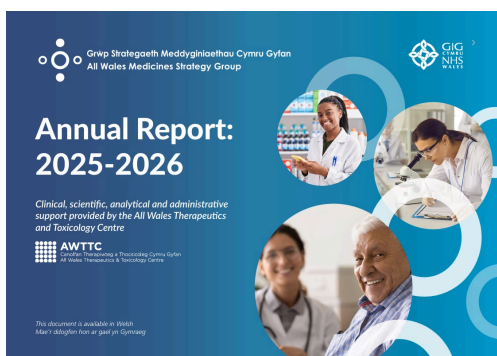
AWTTC

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Newsletter September 2026

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

AWTTC News



AWMSG Annual Report 2025 - 2026 highlights progress in medicines access, safety and optimisation

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) has published its 2025–2026 Annual Report, highlighting progress in improving access to medicines, promoting safer prescribing and supporting better health outcomes for patients across Wales.

Supported by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), AWMSG provides evidence-based, “once for Wales” advice to Welsh Government and NHS Wales, helping people access clinically appropriate and cost-effective treatments wherever they live in Wales.

During the year, 76 medicines were approved by NICE or AWMSG, supporting timely access to new and effective treatments for patients across Wales.



Best Practice Day 2026 presentations available

More than 160 healthcare professionals from across Wales came together for the annual AWTTC Best Practice Day held on July 9, exploring this year’s theme: Medicines Optimisation for a Sustainable Future.

Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive. Delegates described the speakers and presentations as excellent, inspiring, engaging and relevant. Many also highlighted the value of networking, connecting with colleagues and discussing ideas, noting the strength of bringing together such a varied and enthusiastic group of people.

Recordings of the presentations, slides from each of the breakout sessions and winning posters are now available.

[Read more](#)[Read more](#)

Patient and Public Involvement Group meeting

The latest Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) meeting, held on 17 September, gave members an opportunity to share valuable insights and feedback on priorities in support of the Your Medicines, Your Health campaign.

Members took part in an interactive workshop and discussion led by the Public Health Wales Behavioural Insights Team.

The meeting also marked a change for PAPIG, with Chair Clare Elliott announcing that she is stepping down from the role and handing over to Karen Jones, Senior Pharmacist at AWTTTC.

AWTTTC would like to thank Clare for her commitment and contribution to PAPIG and for the time she has dedicated to chairing the group and encouraging patient engagement.

[Get involved in PAPIG](#)

Join us for the next Learning at Lunch session

The session on October 15 will bring together expertise from across NHS Wales, offering practical insights, updates on All Wales resources and opportunities to learn about approaches that can support better outcomes for patients.

Talks include:

- Tackling malnutrition in communities with a value-based health care approach - Emma Catling, Malnutrition Strategic Lead
- AWTTTC news you can use - Sabrina Rind – Senior Pharmacist AWTTTC
- Gabapentinoids in chronic pain: An overview of the All Wales resources - Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist AWTTTC
- Rapid therapeutics update - Tessa Lewis, General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan UHB and Medical Advisor, AWTTTC

[Book your place](#)



AWTTC attend SMC's 25th anniversary

Congratulations to the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) on 25 years of supporting the assessment and use of medicines across Scotland.

AWTTC was delighted to join the celebrations in Glasgow, with Programme Director Dr Andrew Champion, Head of Patient Access to Medicines Tony Williams, and former AWTTC Clinical Director Prof Phil Routledge attending the anniversary event.

Here's to many more years of collaboration and supporting better outcomes for patients across the UK.



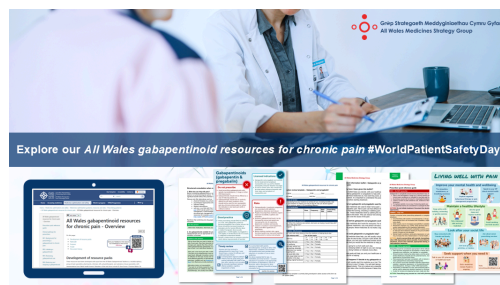
AWTTC at the PIPA Conference

AWTTC colleagues Claire Thomas, Head of Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU) and Medicines Optimisation and Dianne Burnett, Director of Welsh Medicine Advice Service (WMAS) attended the Pharmaceutical Information and Pharmacovigilance Association (PIPA) on September 9 where they had been invited to participate in a panel discussion on 'Reimagining aRMMs: Putting Patients at the Centre of Risk Communication'.

The discussion explored how patients should be put at the heart of risk communication through meaningful involvement, improved accessibility, digital innovation and collaboration.



AWTTC contributes to the Advanced Therapies Wales Symposium



All Wales Gabapentinoid Resources highlighted for World Patients Safety day

AWTTC was delighted to take part in the annual Advanced Therapies Wales Symposium on 17 September, bringing together researchers, clinicians, industry partners and policymakers to explore the future of advanced therapies.

This year's symposium focused on 'Branching out – Growing through collaboration', highlighting how collaboration across the sector can help accelerate innovation and improve access to cutting-edge treatments for patients.

AWTTC's Dr Stephanie Francis contributed to the programme, providing an update on National Pathway Mapping and sharing insights into work to support the development and implementation of advanced therapies across Wales.

For World Patient Safety Day on September 17 we highlighted our resources for safe prescribing.

AWTTC's All Wales Gabapentinoid Resources for Chronic Pain have been developed to support healthcare professionals and patients in making informed, shared decisions about the use of gabapentin and pregabalin.

The five resource packs provide practical tools to support safe and appropriate prescribing across the treatment pathway – from considering and initiating treatment through to review, reducing and stopping.

The resources also highlight important safety considerations, including the risks of misuse, dependence and interactions with other medicines.

[Read More](#)



AWTTC connects with pharmacy colleagues at Welsh conference

AWTTC was pleased to attend the Royal College of Pharmacy's Pharmacy: Delivering a Healthier Wales Conference 2026, at the Parkgate Hotel in Cardiff on Friday 25 September.

The conference brought together pharmacy professionals and colleagues from across Wales, where pharmacists and pharmacy technicians shared innovative work relating to the conference theme. Delegates also heard updates from the Royal College of Pharmacy, NHS Wales Confederation, Health Education and Improvement Wales and the Chief



New email address for AWTTC's Horizon Scanning team

We've launched a dedicated mailbox to make it easier for industry representatives and other stakeholders to connect with our Horizon Scanning and Financial Forecasting team.

UK PharmaScan remains our primary source of horizon scanning information. We welcome additional insights and information from stakeholders that may help inform horizon scanning activities, medicines planning and service preparedness in Wales.

Get in touch and help strengthen horizon scanning and future medicines

Pharmaceutical Officer, Welsh
Government.

planning across Wales.

HorizonScanning.AWTTC@wales.nhs.uk

The AWTTC team connected with colleagues old and new at the AWTTC stand at, providing an opportunity to showcase our work and resources and speak directly with conference delegates. The stand attracted plenty of interest throughout the day, with valuable conversations about medicines optimisation, medicines access and the support available to healthcare professionals across NHS Wales.

Patient Access to Medicine Service (PAMS) News

The following recommendation of the All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AMSG) has been ratified by Welsh Government



Adrenaline (EURneffy®) is recommended as an option for use in NHS Wales for the emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) due to insect stings or bites, foods, medicinal products, and other allergens as well as idiopathic or exercise-induced anaphylaxis. Treatment is indicated for adults and children with a body weight ≥ 30 kg.

Prescribers are reminded to consult the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) advice on the prescribing of self-administered emergency adrenaline to people at risk of anaphylaxis.

[Read more](#)

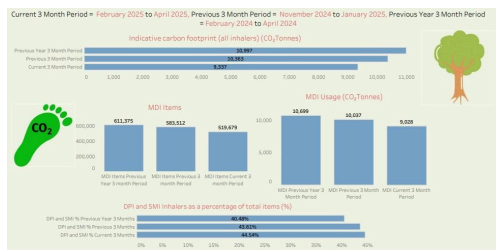
NHS Wales Blueteq medicines list



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](#).

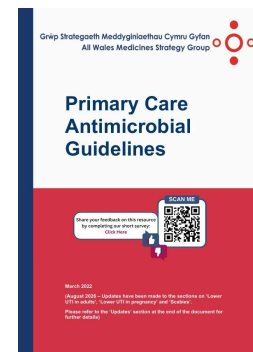
Welsh Analytical Prescribing Unit (WAPSU) News



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

AWTTC generates monthly reports providing a brief summary of some of the key metrics provided within the SPIRA dashboards for 'inhaler decarbonisation' and 'prescribing intervals'.

[Read more](#)



Primary care antimicrobial guidelines - update

This guideline was developed to provide comprehensive advice on the antimicrobial management of common infections in primary care, taking into account local pathogen and antimicrobial susceptibility data in Wales.

Updates have been made to the sections on 'Lower UTI in adults', 'Lower UTI in pregnancy' and 'Scabies'.

Please refer to the 'Updates' section at the end of the document for further details.

[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.

Spaces are limited so secure your place now.

Click the link for further information and how to register.

[Read more](#)

World Patient Safety Day

The Yellow Card Centre Wales team marked World Patient Safety Day (September 17) by hosting an information stand at University Hospital of Wales.

The team spoke with patients, visitors and healthcare professionals about the importance of reporting suspected side effects and adverse reactions to medicines through the Yellow Card Scheme.

By reporting suspected side effects, patients and healthcare professionals can help strengthen the safety of medicines for everyone.

Find out more about reporting suspected side effects through the Yellow Card Scheme below.

[Read more](#)

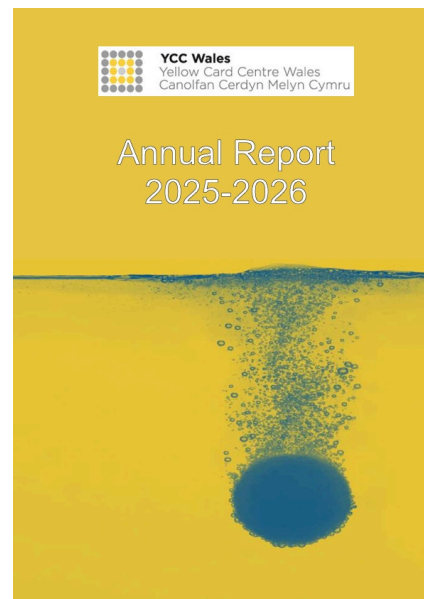


Dr Alison Thomas teaches at All Wales IMT Study Day

YCC Wales' Medical Director Dr Alison Thomas recently contributed to the All Wales Internal Medicine Training (IMT) Study Day, sharing her expertise with doctors undertaking postgraduate medical training across Wales.

The study day provided an opportunity for trainees to develop their knowledge and skills through teaching from experienced clinicians and specialists.

Dr Thomas' session gave trainees the opportunity to learn more about the Yellow Card Scheme and the important role it plays in identifying and



YCC Wales publishes its Annual report

YCC Wales' annual report shows the number of Yellow Card reports for suspected adverse reactions to medicines submitted in Wales increased by 7% in 2025 - 2026.

A total of 4,018 reports were submitted during the year, compared with 3,757 in

monitoring suspected side effects and adverse reactions to medicines.

2024 - 2025 and for the first time YCC Wales also received reporting data relating to medical devices.

[Read more](#)

Welsh Medicines Advice Centre (WMAS) News



WMAS talk at the Association of Pharmacy Technicians Conference

Our Medicines Advice Manager, Ollie Cummings, was honoured to be invited to speak at the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK) Annual Conference 2026, joining colleagues from Bristol and Plymouth to showcase the evolving and advanced roles of Pharmacy Technicians within Medicines Advice Services.

The presentation highlighted the advanced roles that Pharmacy Technicians are undertaking within Medicines Advice services, demonstrating the expertise, skills, professional judgement and significant impact they bring in these positions, while continuing to expand the scope of pharmacy technician practice.

The Welsh Medicines Advice Service is proud to employ nine Pharmacy Technicians across Wales and continues to pioneer innovative models of service delivery through its Pharmacy Technician-led enquiry answering service for members of the public and healthcare professionals, ensuring access to high-quality, evidence-based medicines information and advice, while supporting the safe and effective use of medicines throughout Wales.



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 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Autumn 2026 in Wales:

Updated VGD templates:

- COVID-19 vaccine 5 years and above v2.0

Updated PGD templates:

- COVID-19 mRNA vaccine 6 months to 4 years v6.0

Valid from 01 October 2026.

Published now to support local adoption, governance approval process and rollout in NHS Wales organisations / commissioned services.

You can find these and our other national PGD and VGD templates on the WMAS website.

[Read more](#)

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