





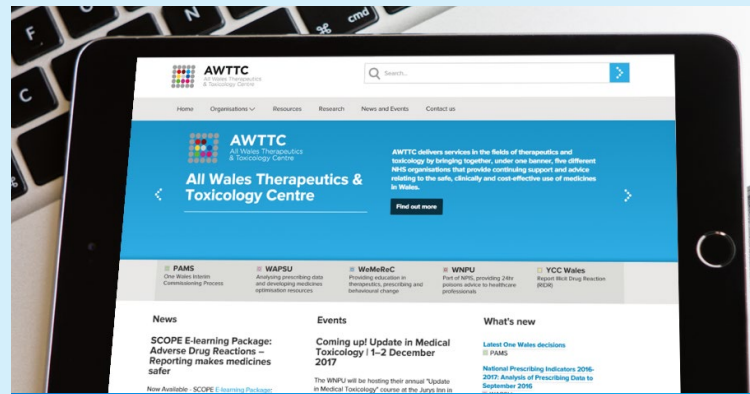


## Welcome to the AWTTC Newsletter!

Quarterly updates to keep you informed of our latest news and work.

Featuring news for January–March 2019 from:

	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU)	2
	Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Wales	3
	Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNPU)	3
	Patient Access to Medicines Service (PAMS)	4



This newsletter is published on the AWTTC website. Please email [awttc@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:awttc@wales.nhs.uk) if you would like us to add you to our mailing list or if you would like to give any feedback.



### AWMSG Training Day held | January 2019

AWTTC held its annual Training Day for AWMSG and subgroup members at the Cardiff City Stadium on 16 January 2019. Sessions covered the roles of AWPAG, NMG and WAPSU, and there was a presentation on health economics from guest speaker Professor Karl Claxton from the University of York.

[Read more...](#)

### Paper on budget impact published | January 2019

AWTTC has published new research in Pharmacoeconomics entitled 'Estimated versus observed expenditure associated with medicines recommended by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group', authored by Stuart Keeping, Paul Deslandes, Kathryn Haines and Philip Routledge.

The article studies the observed spending on medicines recommended by AWMSG compared with the spending estimated by pharmaceutical companies in their appraisal submissions.

[Read more...](#)

### PAPIG meeting held | January 2019

PAPIG's first meeting of 2019 was held in Cardiff on 23 January and welcomed speakers from Cwm Taf UHB Patient Forum and Public Health Wales as well as representatives from AWTTC organisations.

[Read more...](#)

### Paper on adverse drug reactions published | February 2019

Dr Laurence Gray and Professor Phil Routledge have published a paper in the Adverse Drug Reaction Bulletin: 'Adverse Drug Reactions, still masquerading after all these years?'

[Read more...](#)



- Analysing prescribing data and developing medicines optimisation resources...

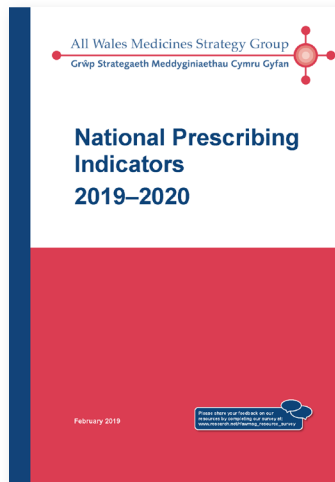
[> Read more...](#)

## National Prescribing Indicators 2019-2020 published

| January 2019

Each year AWMSG publishes a range of indicators to monitor prescribing performance in certain high priority therapeutic areas. The NPIs for 2019-2020 comprise eleven measures, organised into one of three categories with a focus on safety, stewardship or efficiency. The new or updated NPIs for 2019-2020 include:

- Monitoring of sodium valproate prescribing in female patients aged 14-45 has been added to the Prescribing Safety Indicators
- Opioid burden has been added as part of the Analgesics indicator.



## Biosimilar Best Practice Day 2019

| January 2019

Recent NPI data have shown considerable variation in uptake of biosimilars across health boards in Wales, with the potential for significant cost savings if all prescribing was in line with the best performing health board.

A Biosimilar Best Practice Day was held at Cardiff City Stadium on 21 January 2019, to provide a forum to share good practice initiatives, prescribing data, behavioural change methodologies and procurement and commissioning information to support wider uptake of biosimilars in NHS Wales.

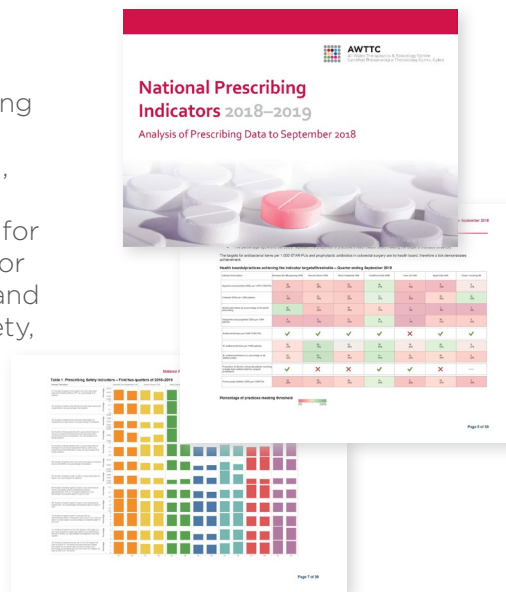
[> Read more...](#)

[> Read more...](#)

## Quarterly NPI report

| January 2019

The second National Prescribing Indicator (NPI) report for 2018-2019 has been published, analysing data for the quarter ending September 2018. NPIs for 2018-2019 include indicators for primary and secondary care, and have been categorised as safety, stewardship or efficiency indicators. The majority of NPIs with a threshold showed improvement across Wales in line with the aim of each indicator, compared with the equivalent quarter of the previous year.



## Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2019-2020 published

| March 2019

An annual summary of therapeutic priorities, to help health boards to develop their Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programmes (CEPP), has been published.

[> Read more...](#)

[> Read more...](#)



- Monitoring adverse reactions to medicines...

[> Read more...](#)

## Yellow Card CPD learning package launched for GPs

| January 2019

YCC Wales have developed a Yellow Card Scheme Continuing Professional Development (CPD) package for General Practitioners, in collaboration with Rebecca Ratcliffe. The CPD package covers the history of the Yellow Card Scheme, along with why, what, and how to report adverse drug reactions to the Yellow Card Scheme.

[> Read more...](#)

## YCC Wales Training Day

| March 2019

YCC Wales held their annual training day on 12 March 2019. This year, the training day was done in collaboration with the All Wales Medicines Safety Pharmacist, Lynette James and all the Welsh medical safety officers (MSOs) were invited to attend.

[> Read more...](#)

## Dental teaching — in collaboration with HEIW and Wales Deanery

| February 2019

YCC Wales took part in a Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) CPD event entitled 'Medicines, Mouth Cancer and Modifying Behaviour'. The multi-disciplinary event, primarily aimed at dental professionals, covered a range of key topics including considerations for appropriate prescribing and adverse drug reactions.

[> Read more...](#)



- Providing 24-hour poisons advice to healthcare professionals...

[> Read more...](#)

## Coming up — Medical Toxicology Course

| Register now — 18th-19th October 2019

This two day course is designed for those interested in medical toxicology – emergency medicine staff, doctors in training, specialist registrars, nurses (particularly those working in emergency medicine), laboratory staff, and specialists in poisons information – who wish to gain expertise in the management of common toxicological problems.

Places are limited and early application is advised.

**MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY COURSE**

18TH & 19TH OCTOBER 2019  
JURY'S INN, CARDIFF, UK.

This intensive two day course is designed for those interested in medical toxicology. This course will aide those who wish to gain expertise in the practical management of common toxicological problems.

Previous attendees included nurses and physicians from urgent care, minor injuries, emergency and intensive care departments, paramedics, medical students, specialist registrars and specialists in poisons information.

**AWTTC**  
All Wales Toxicology & Poisons Centre

For more information contact:  
Welsh National Poisons Unit  
Telephones: (+44) 02920 715013  
Fax: (+44) 02920 704357  
Email: [tox.course@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:tox.course@wales.nhs.uk)  
Website: <https://www.awttc.org/news-and-events>  
Places are limited and early application is advised.

**£300 FOR 2 DAYS OR £200 PER DAY**



## PAMS

Patient Access to Medicines Service  
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

- Supporting health technology appraisals and coordinating the outputs of IPFR panels across Wales...

[> Read more...](#)

## One Wales Interim Commissioning

| January 2019

Advice has been reviewed for adalimumab for the treatment of uveitis in children, and axitinib for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma. Adalimumab was supported for use for another 12 months. Axitinib is no longer supported for use through One Wales Interim Commissioning as other licensed and health technology appraisal-approved medicines are now available for this indication.

| March 2019

Opicapone may be used as an adjunctive therapy to preparations of levodopa/DOPA decarboxylase inhibitors in adult patients with Parkinson's disease and end-of-dose motor fluctuations who cannot be stabilised on those combinations.

Interim advice for arsenic trioxide and for bevacizumab has been reviewed. Arsenic trioxide was supported for use for another 12 months for the treatment of high-risk acute promyelocytic leukaemia. Bevacizumab continues to not be supported for use for the treatment of advanced epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer at high risk for progression.

[> Read more...](#)

## New medicines advice

| March 2019

PAMS supports the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) to assess and monitor new medicines in Wales.

In March, Welsh Government approved advice from AWMSG for ciclosporin (Verkazia®) and romiplostim (Nplate®).

[> Read more...](#)

Also in March, Welsh Government approved advice from AWMSG for ataluren (Translarna®) and dasatinib (Sprycel®).

[> Read more...](#)



## WeMeReC

Welsh Medicines Resource Centre  
Canolfan Adnoddau Moddion Cymru

- Providing education in therapeutics, prescribing and behavioural change...

[> Read more...](#)



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

## Contact us

Academic Building,  
University Hospital Llandough,  
Penlan Road, Penarth,  
Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2XX

Telephone: 029 2071 6900

Email: [awttc@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:awttc@wales.nhs.uk)

Web: [www.awttc.org](http://www.awttc.org)