



AWTTC

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

In Focus

Spring 2024 - Issue 25

AWTTC Spring Newsletter

A quarterly update on latest news, publications and resources.

In This Issue

January – March 2024 news from:

- **Patient Access to Medicines Service (PAMS)**
Supporting health technology appraisal, One Wales medicines assessments and quality assuring IPFR outputs.
- **Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU)**
Development of National Prescribing Indicators and analysis and reporting of medicines usage data.
- **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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Cardiff and Vale UHB Chief Executive visits AWTTC

We were delighted to welcome Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, to our offices in the Routledge Academic Centre to find out about the work we do in supporting safe and effective prescribing in Wales. The visit was recorded in two parts - the first part was a round table discussion where Suzanne learned more about our work in supporting medicines access, medicines optimisation and medicines safety. The second part shows Suzanne having a tour of The National Poisons Information Service (Cardiff) and speaking to staff who support healthcare professionals throughout the United Kingdom (and out of hours in Ireland) in advising on the management of poisoning.



Ruth Lang, Senior Liaison Manager at AWTTC, Professor James Coulson, AWTTC Clinical Director, Suzanne Rankin CEO of Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board and Andrew Champion, AWTTC Programme Director

[Watch here](#)

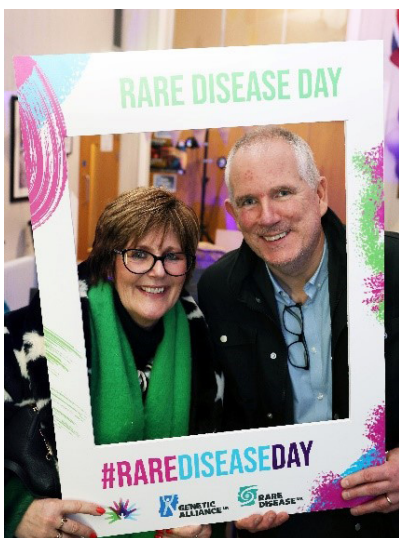


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Rare Disease Day

AWTTC and AWMSG were delighted to join Genetic Alliance UK and stakeholders from across the rare disease community at the Annual Reception in Cardiff Bay to celebrate #RareDiseaseDay which is an important international annual event raising awareness of the challenges of living with a rare condition and pushing for lasting change to improve the lives of 300 million people affected by a rare condition globally.



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Latest news from AWMSG's Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG)

Type 2 diabetes was the theme of the first Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) virtual meeting of 2024. Four excellent presenters, all leading experts in their field, told us what's being done in Wales to prevent and manage this condition.

[Read more here](#)



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Another successful Learning at Lunch session held

A 1-hour Learning at Lunch session was held online on 8 February with talks including 'The role of hormone therapy in gender-affirming care' and 'Urine good hands: UTI General Practice Tips'.

The next Learning at Lunch event will take place on 21 May where you can find out how we can 'Work together to optimise antipsychotic use in dementia' and what resources are available for 'Optimising medicine use in care homes'. Sign up to attend [here](#).

[Recordings available here](#)



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'All Wales protocol for the appropriate prescribing of antipsychotics for people living with dementia' published

This resource aims to guide best practice in the initiation; monitoring; review; tapering and stopping of antipsychotics where they are prescribed for people living with dementia who express distress.

[Read more here](#)



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New 'All Wales adult asthma management and prescribing guideline' published

This guideline has been updated to bring the guidance in line with other nationally recognised recommendations, and includes a new 'preferred regimen' for treating mild asthma.

[Read more here](#)



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New 'All Wales policy for Medicines Administration, Recording, Review, Storage and Disposal (MARRS)' published

This is a framework of standards that healthcare workers, health boards and trusts in Wales must implement through local procedures, and ensures practice is aligned with recent changes to legislation and medicines management guidelines.

[Read more here](#)



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Minor updates to 'Primary care antimicrobial guidelines' published

Minor updates have been made throughout the guidelines following the MHRA warning on quinolone use, and additional changes have been made to sections on conjunctivitis and threadworms.

[Read more here](#)

A number of One Wales recommendations have recently been reviewed and updated guidance has been published on the AWTTC website:



PAMS
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

One Wales interim advice: bevacizumab – review

Interim advice on bevacizumab for the treatment of adult patients with advanced epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer at high risk for progression has been reviewed by the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group and supported by AWMSG.

[Read more here.](#)



PAMS
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

One Wales interim advice: bendamustine and rituximab – review

Bendamustine in combination with rituximab can be made available within NHS Wales for the treatment of previously untreated and relapsed mantle cell lymphoma in patients currently deemed unsuitable for anthracycline-based therapy or other health technology appraisal-approved regimens.

[Read more here](#)



PAMS
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Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

One Wales interim advice: bendamustine and rituximab – review

Bendamustine in combination with rituximab can be made available within NHS Wales for the treatment of previously untreated and relapsed follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma and Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinaemia under certain circumstances.

[Read more here](#)



PAMS
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

One Wales interim advice: rituximab – review

Using the agreed starting and stopping criteria, rituximab can be made available within NHS Wales for the second- or third-line treatment of fibrotic interstitial lung disease (not idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis) associated with connective tissue disease or idiopathic fibrotic non-specific interstitial pneumonia.

[Read more here](#)



PAMS
Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaethau

Sue’s retirement

In March we said goodbye to one of our long-standing members of staff Sue Cervetto as she retired from AWTTC after 17 years service. Sue was appointed as a Senior Appraisal Pharmacist in 2007 and was involved in many important projects, including the application for NICE accreditation which was awarded to AWMSG in 2011 in recognition of the high quality of the AWMSG health technology appraisal process.

Sue began her career with AWTTC, formerly the Welsh Medicines Partnership, and has been a huge part of the organisation. She will be missed by all her colleagues.



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

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 here](#)

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

National Prescribing Indicators 2023–2024: Analysis of prescribing data to September 2023

The National Prescribing Indicator (NPI) report, analysing data for the quarter ending September 2023 has been published.

[Read more here](#)

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

New SPIRA dashboards published

The following data monitoring dashboards have recently been added to SPIRA and can be accessed by users who are on the NHS Wales network:

- Efficiencies – Dry eye
- Efficiencies – Bath and shower emollients
- Efficiencies – Emollients
- Efficiencies – Restricted list

[Access the dashboards here](#)

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

WNPU publication – inadvertent paediatric IV paracetamol poisoning

Congratulations to the Director of the Welsh National Poisons Unit, Dr Laurence Gray, whose paper entitled "Medication errors involving intravenous paracetamol in children: experience from enquiries to the National Poisons Information Service" was successfully published in the British Medical Journal Archives of Disease in Childhood in January 2024.

[Read more here](#)



Yellow Card Centre student teaching

YCC Wales returned to Swansea University and Cardiff University to teach Pharmacy students about adverse drug reactions and reporting via the Yellow Card Scheme.

Students were given a lecture followed by a workshop, where they were tasked with identifying the suspect medications in a number of case studies and deciding whether they would report the reaction using a Yellow Card.



Watch the Yellow Card Centre Wales' animated video and find out what mascot Charlie has to say

The Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Wales' new animated video includes mascot Charlie explaining why and how to report a suspected side effect to a medicine or a problem with a medical device.

[Watch it here.](#)



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