

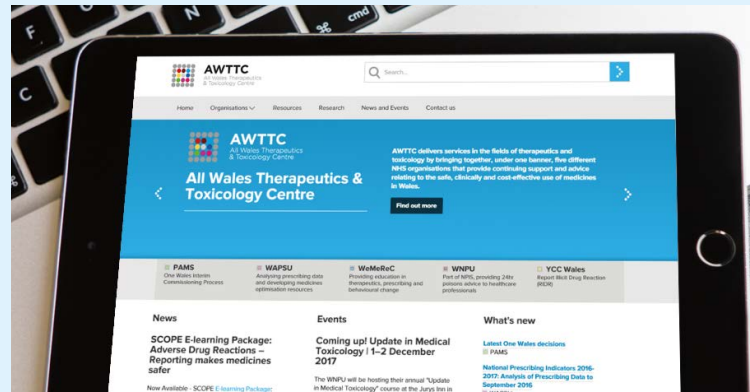


## Welcome to the AWTTC Newsletter!

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

Featuring news for January–June 2020 from:

- Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU) 3
- Patient Access to Medicines Service (PAMS) 4
- Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNPU) 5
- Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Wales 5



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.



Follow us on Twitter: [@AWTTCComms](https://twitter.com/AWTTCComms) and [@AWTTCCymraeg](https://twitter.com/AWTTCCymraeg)



### Collaboration and resilience: AWTTC adapts to new way of working during COVID-19

| March-June 2020

During the coronavirus pandemic AWTTC's multidisciplinary team showed resilience in overcoming new challenges and ensuring access to medicines in Wales was not compromised.

From creating a central resource hub for prescribers to working collaboratively on the monitoring of critical medicines stocks, the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) rapidly adapted in reaction to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more...](#)



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

#### Contact us

The Routledge Academic Centre,  
University Hospital Llandough,  
Penlan Road, Penarth,  
Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2XX

Telephone: 029 218 26900  
Email: [awttc@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:awttc@wales.nhs.uk)  
Web: [www.awttc.org](http://www.awttc.org)



## AWMSG Training Day

| January 2020

The annual AWMSG Training Day was held on Wednesday 15 January 2020 in Cardiff City Stadium, and was attended by members of AWMSG and its two sub-groups. Attendees were invited to consider the new vision for AWMSG put forward by the AWMSG Chair, Ceri Phillips, and work together in answering some key questions.

[› Read more...](#)

## AWTTC member of staff receives Welsh Language Award

| January 2020

Kelly Wood, Senior Scientist at the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), won the Equality/Welsh Language Category in the Clinical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Clinical Board Staff Recognition Scheme. This was for the hard work Kelly has done promoting use of the Welsh language and driving forward compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

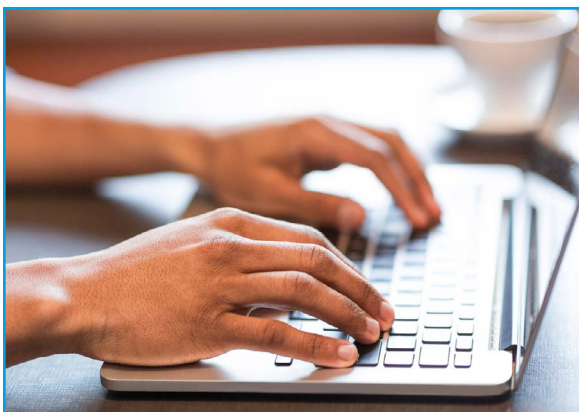
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## AWTTC Away Day

| March 2020

AWTTC held its first away day on 6 March 2020. The aims of the day were to provide opportunity for creativity, build cohesion and foster good working relationships in addition to establishing the direction for our strategic plan to work together towards a common goal.

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## AWTTC expands educational remit with new collaboration

| June 2020

AWTTC has worked in conjunction with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) on a new module that launched in June. The module was launched on 11 June 2020 allowing medical professionals to gain an overview of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021.

[› Read more...](#)

## AWTTC agrees strategic alliance with Health Technology Wales

| June 2020

AWTTC and Health Technology Wales (HTW) have formed a united approach to offer expert advice and guidance to healthcare providers. The two organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further secure a close working relationship. The alliance brings mutual benefits including shared learnings and insights into key processes.

[› Read more...](#)

## AWMSG Best Practice Day 2020 - POSTPONED

| Originally planned for 7 July 2020

In light of the current events with COVID-19, the AWMSG Best Practice Day 2020 was postponed. AWTTC are unable to confirm a future date yet, but will provide an update as soon as we are able.



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

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### Quarterly NPI reports

| January and April 2020

The second and third National Prescribing Indicator (NPI) reports for 2019-2020 have been published, analysing data for the quarter ending September 2019 and December 2019, respectively. NPIs for 2019-2020 include indicators for primary and secondary care, and have been categorised as safety, stewardship or efficiency indicators.

[› Quarter ending September 2019 - Read more...](#)

[› Quarter ending December 2019 - Read more...](#)



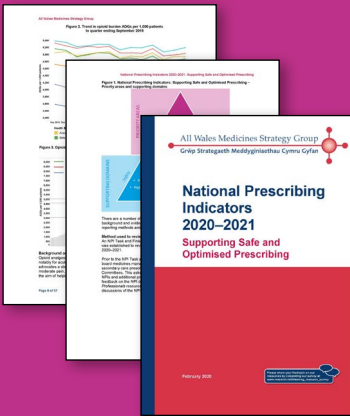
### National Prescribing Indicators 2020-2021

| February 2020

National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) are developed annually with the aim of promoting rational prescribing. The indicators are evidence-based and are designed to be clear, easily understood and allow health boards, primary care clusters, GP practices and prescribers to compare current prescribing practice against an agreed standard of quality.

For 2020-2021, the National Prescribing Indicators: Supporting Safe and Optimised Prescribing have been refreshed with a focus on three priority areas: Analgesics, Anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation and Antimicrobial stewardship.

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### Items Identified as Low Value for Prescribing - Paper 3

| February 2020

The third paper in the Low Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales series has been published and provides healthcare professionals with information to minimise the prescribing of medicines that offer a limited clinical benefit to patients and where more cost-effective treatments may be available. Nine items/item groups have been identified for the purposes of this document.

[› Read more...](#)



### All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation

| March 2020

This guidance is an update to the previously available 'All Wales Advice on the Role of Oral Anticoagulants', and focuses on treatment of patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.

[› Read more...](#)

### Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2020-2021

| June 2020

This document summarises the AWMSG therapeutic priorities for 2020-2021, and highlights opportunities within the Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (CEPP) framework where local prescribing initiatives can be undertaken to support these priorities.

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## All Wales Guidance for Health Boards/Trusts and Social Care Providers in Respect of Medicines and Care Support Workers

| June 2020

This guidance is intended to provide managers, responsible individuals, registered nurses and care support workers in Welsh organisations with information on how and when a registered nurse may delegate the task of medicines support to a care support worker, and the necessary education and training standards, and policies and procedures that are required to facilitate this.

[> Read more...](#)



### **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...](#)

### **New medicines advice**

| February-June 2020

PAMS supports AWMSG in the assessment and monitoring of new medicines in Wales.

In February, Welsh Government approved advice from AWMSG for dolutegravir/lamivudine (Dovato®) and plerixafor (Mozobil®).

[> Read more...](#)

In June, Welsh Government approved advice from AWMSG for ketotifen (Ketofall®).

[> Read more...](#)

### **One Wales Interim Commissioning Advice During COVID-19 Pandemic**

| April 2020

Using the agreed starting and stopping criteria, abiraterone (ZYTIGA®), apalutamide (Erleada®) and enzalutamide (Xtandi®) can be made available within NHS Wales for the treatment of high-risk locally advanced and metastatic, hormone-sensitive prostate cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[> Read more...](#)

### **Individual Patient Funding Request Workshop 2020 - CANCELLED**

| 4 May 2020

In light of current events with COVID-19, the IPFR Workshop 2020 has been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

As soon as we are able to confirm a date for the next Workshop, we will be sure to let you know.

### **Positive review by AWMSG sees HIV prevention drug made routinely available in Wales**

| June 2020

After a successful Welsh Government funded study, a pre-exposure prophylaxis HIV prevention drug combination will be routinely available to those eligible across Wales.

A three-year study, launched in July 2017, into the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Wales has resulted in the HIV prevention pill being made available for those who meet the criteria. The news comes as another milestone in the work to end HIV infections in Wales.

[> Read more...](#)





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

[› Read more...](#)

## Update to medical toxicology course (Cardiff) - POSTPONED

| March 2020

The decision was made to postpone the 2020 Update in Medical Toxicology Course until Autumn 2021, allowing health professionals to deal with the health issues facing the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details for the 2021 course will be shared as soon as dates become available.

[› Read more...](#)

## NPIS Cardiff assists in management of a possible case of COVID-19

| March 2020

The National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) provides advice on the effects of exposures to a wide range of substances, including chemicals, household products, pharmaceuticals, plants, fungi, and herbal medicines. Recently, the Cardiff office of NPIS was able to assist in the management of a possible case of COVID-19.

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## Dishwasher rinse aids - are they a common household poisoning problem?

| June 2020

Rinse aids are drying aids used in dishwashers and act by reducing the surface tension of water, thereby ensuring water runs off crockery more easily. They are found in approximately half of UK households and so can present a danger if people, especially children, are exposed to them. Recently, Dr John Thompson, a senior consultant at the Cardiff unit of the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS), was involved in a published review of exposures to rinse aids reported to the UK NPIS.

[› Read more...](#)



- Monitoring adverse reactions to medicines...

[› Read more...](#)



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## Medicine Safety Training Day

| March 2020

YCC Wales held their annual training day on 10 March 2020. For the second year running, the training day was run in collaboration with the All Wales Medicines Safety Pharmacist, Lynette James. The theme for this year's event was Medicine Safety in Paediatrics.

[› Read more...](#)

## Yellow Card reporting during the COVID-19 outbreak

| March 2020

The MHRA are encouraging all patients, care givers and healthcare professionals to submit reports of suspected side effects using the Yellow Card Scheme electronically rather than by paper, during the current outbreak.

Click on 'Read more...' for more information.

[› Read more...](#)