



AWTTC

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

In Focus

Winter 2023 - Issue 24

AWTTC Winter Newsletter

A quarterly update on latest news, publications and resources.

In This Issue

October – December 2023 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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Latest news from AWMSG's Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG)

An open invitation is extended to members of the public to learn more about the work of AWMSG and get involved. Presentations from the October PAPIG meeting included Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile) infections in Wales, the safety of herbal medicines and the new All Wales Medicines Strategy Group's (AWMSG) 5-year strategy. Catch up on the meeting as videos of the presentations are available to view online and let us know if you want to attend the next meeting on 27 February.

[Read more here](#)



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AWMSG endorses 'Decarbonisation: inhaler prescribing, use and disposal 2023–2030 A National Strategy for Wales'

The strategy sets out the ambitious actions the NHS and its partners will need to take to reduce the carbon impact of inhalers in Wales. Read how we can contribute towards achieving a collective net zero by 2030 by changing the ways that respiratory conditions are diagnosed, and the ways that inhalers are prescribed in primary care, used and disposed of.

[Read more here](#)

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AWMSG endorses the strategy for 'Withdrawal of the national desflurane contract in Wales'

Desflurane is an anaesthetic gas that has been commonly used in surgery. It has a high carbon footprint and is harmful to the environment. By withdrawing it from use in Welsh hospitals it will help NHS Wales achieve its target of net zero by 2030.

[Read more here](#)

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AWMSG consults on a new Medicines Strategy for Wales: 2024–2029

AWTTC has been helping AWMSG to develop their next five-year strategy for 2024–2029 which aims to make significant progress in a broad range of objectives that have been grouped under eight Goals. AWMSG put out a call to a wide range of organisations that all impact NHS Wales to work together to reach these common goals. Consultation responses were considered by AWMSG at their meeting in December and the strategy's targeted publication is March.

[The minutes of the meeting will be online soon](#)

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Best Practice Day 2023 videos now available

AWTTC hosts an annual Best Practice Day to promote and facilitate the sharing of knowledge to improve prescribing practice in Wales. The event, held in July, was attended by over 90 delegates with representation from all health boards in Wales. Videos of some of the presentations are now available to view on our website and slide decks for some of the other presentations are available to download.

[Read more here](#)

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Updates to the 'All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline'

Minor changes have been made to this guideline which now recommends triple therapy first-line for some patients and updated inhaler options for managing exacerbations.

[Read more here](#)

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AWTTC supports Baobab Bach – a community pantry in Barry

Staff at AWTTC made a food donation to the Baobab Bach Barry Pantry to support local families this Christmas.

Baobab Bach works with communities to help reduce food waste and provide affordable food and wellbeing support to people in the area.

Since opening in 2020 the project, which now has 15 pantries in South Wales, has supplied thousands of bags of food, helped feed many families and have saved tonnes of food from going into landfill.

“We were delighted to receive a kind donation from the team at AWTTC this Christmas. The donated food helped bring the cheer of the season to our members, young and old,” said Joe Ferris, Baobab Bach CIC Barry Pantry.

**PAMS**Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaetha

AWTTC publishes the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Annual Report 2022-2023

This report highlights the work of the IPFR teams in helping patients access treatments that are not routinely available in NHS Wales.

[Read more here](#)

**PAMS**Patient Access to Medicines Service
Mynediad Claf at Wasanaeth Meddyginiaetha

One Wales interim advice: Adalimumab

Interim advice on adalimumab for the treatment of paediatric patients with severe refractory non-infectious intermediate, posterior and pan-uveitis 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 Meddyginiaetha

One Wales interim advice: Vonicog alfa

Interim advice on vonicog alfa for on-demand treatment of non-surgical and surgical (elective and emergency) bleeding episodes in children aged up to 17 years with von Willebrand disease 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

AWTTC hosts a Pharmaceutical Industry Open Day

AWTTC hosted an Open Day on 30 November at the All Nations Centre in Cardiff with the aim of sharing information and building effective engagement with the pharmaceutical industry.

The morning's presentations set the scene for afternoon networking sessions which enabled deeper discussion of the topics presented. Resources are now online, if you would like to catch up on the day.

[Read more here.](#)

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

New SPIRA dashboards published

These are the new data monitoring dashboards which have been added to SPIRA they can be accessed by users who are on the NHS Wales network:

- Efficiencies – Low value for prescribing supplementary data
- Efficiencies – Apixaban switching tool
- Desflurane dashboard

[Access the dashboards here](#)

**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 June 2023

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

[Read more here](#)

**WNP**
Welsh National Poisons Unit
Uned Gwenwynau Cenedlaethol C

Medical Toxicology Course 2023

The Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNP) recently hosted a two-day Medical Toxicology course in Cardiff. The event provided NHS and other healthcare professionals the opportunity to develop further their knowledge of how to manage cases of poisoning, as well as providing newcomers to the profession the opportunity to understand current issues in medical toxicology.

[Read more here](#)

**WNP**
Welsh National Poisons Unit
Uned Gwenwynau Cenedl

The Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances (WEDINOS) 10th Anniversary Conference

WEDINOS is the largest public drug checking programme in the UK and forms a crucial part of the drugs harm reduction strategy in Wales. Staff from the Welsh National Poisons Unit (WNP) were able to attend the 10th anniversary conference and support their colleagues in WEDINOS.

[Read more here](#)

**WNP**
Welsh National Poisons Unit
Uned Gwenwynau Cenedlaethol C

National Poisons Information Service Annual Report, 2022-23

The National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) recently published their annual report, summarising service activities for the year. During 2022-23, the NPIS received and provided advice for 38,700 telephone enquiries. The majority of these were from NHS advice providers, primary responders and hospitals; of these 2,140 serious and more complex enquiries involved discussion with and advice from an NPIS consultant toxicologist.

[Read more here](#)

**Yellowcard**
Centre
Wales

Yellow Card Centre Wales Annual Report 2022/23

The report details trends in Yellow Card reporting for the past year including total number of reports, reports per Health Board, reports by profession and the top 10 reported medicines.

[Read more here](#)

**Yellowcard**
Centre
Wales

Highlights of #MedSafetyWeek 2023

The social media campaign takes place annually in November and aims to encourage the reporting of suspected side effects. To support the campaign, promotional resources were provided in English and Welsh for use at in-person events and to share on social media, including three new animated videos.

[Read more here](#)

**Yellowcard**
Centre
Wales

Have you heard the Yellow Card Centre Wales on Hospital Radio Glamorgan?

YCC Wales recently collaborated with Hospital Radio Glamorgan to produce a radio jingle informing healthcare professionals and members of the public about Yellow Card reporting for medicines and medical devices.

[Read more here](#)

**Yellowcard**
Centre
Wales

World Patient Safety Day 2023

Events were organised by Yellow Card Champions, covering all Health Boards in Wales and 17 venues in total. Promotional activity included stands featuring yellow decorations, Yellow Card leaflets, merchandise and even yellow-themed food!

[Read more here](#)



Sign-up to receive our future newsletters and read previous issues on the [AWTTC website](#).



For AWTTC's latest updates follow: [@AWTTCcomms](#) | [@AWTTCcymraeg](#)



To give feedback or join the AWTTC mailing list email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk