



AWTTC

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

In Focus

Winter 2024 - Issue 28

AWTTC Winter Newsletter

A quarterly update on latest news, publications and resources.

In This Issue

October – December 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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A new era for the Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP)

The Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) is entering a new era that is focussed on getting the most transformative new medicines to patients in the NHS more quickly.

[Read more here](#)



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Updated AWMSG medicine assessment process launched in January 2025

Following a comprehensive review, a number of changes to the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) process for the assessment of medicines for use in NHS Wales were implemented from 1 January 2025.

[Read more here](#)



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AWTTC secures £3.3 million in funding to strengthen horizon scanning, data capture and medicine access

AWTTC has secured funding from the Voluntary Scheme for Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) Investment Programme.

[Read more here](#)



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New sodium valproate information hub launched

As part of the collaborative effort of the Sodium Valproate Task Force established by Welsh Government, we are pleased to announce that a hub of information focusing on 'Sodium valproate use by women and girls' is now available.

[Read more here](#)



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Call for new members for AWMMSG committees

We are looking for health care professionals to sit on our committees and input into decisions which will have a direct impact on the health outcomes of patients living in Wales.

[Read more here](#)



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End of an era: AWTTC's Office Manager Trevor Brooking retires

For those who have worked with AWTTC and AWMMSG over the past two decades, Trevor Brooking has been an integral part of the team.

[Read more here](#)



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AWTTC's Medical Advisor retires after 13 years

During his time at AWTTC, Rob played a crucial role in steering the AWMMSG's 5-year strategies through the consultation process. Everyone at AWTTC wishes him well for his retirement.

[Read more here](#)



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Back-up antibiotic prescribing: Good practice guide published

This guide aims to encourage consistent implementation of a back-up antibiotic prescribing strategy for specific self-limiting conditions in primary care.

[Read more here](#)



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Position statement on prescribing of branded generics in NHS Wales published

This position statement outlines why the prescribing of branded generics should not routinely be undertaken in NHS Wales unless there is a specific, clinical reason for doing so.

[Read more here](#)

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Prescribing dilemmas: A guide for prescribers updated

The guide has been updated with an additional section on the sharing of responsibility for prescribing between a private clinician and an NHS prescriber.

[Read more here](#)

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New version of Initial clinical management of nicotine withdrawal in adults in secondary care published

This document aims to inform and guide healthcare staff in NHS Wales about how to start nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to manage nicotine withdrawal in adults who are admitted to hospital. This new version now also includes information on the use of vapes.

[Read more here](#)

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Guide on Pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation updated

This guide has been updated to include the latest AWMMSG advice on cytisine (cytisine) and update the information included on electronic nicotine delivery systems.

[Read more here](#)

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Minor updates to All Wales Common Ailments Service Formulary published

Minor updates have been made to the monographs on constipation and dry skin.

[Read more here](#)

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

The last PAPIG meeting took place in November and saw a record number of attendees. Presentations included Your Medicines Your Health campaign, Medicine adherence and KidzMedz Cymru on teaching children how to safely swallow pills.

The next meeting will be held online on March 18th and all are welcome.

[Watch the recordings here](#)

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National Prescribing Indicators for 2025–2028 published

The National Prescribing Indicators allow health boards, primary care clusters, GP practices and prescribers to compare their current prescribing practice against an agreed standard of quality. The latest set of indicators coming into effect from April 2025 cover four priority areas, and are supported by additional safety and efficiency indicators. A supporting information resource has also been developed which contains a brief overview of each NPI and links to useful resources.

[Read more here](#)

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AWTTC on the radio

AWTTC's Senior Pharmacist Sabrina Rind and Senior Scientist Dr Clare Elliott visited the Rookwood studio at Llandough Hospital to spread the word of AWTTC.

They were interviewed by radio presenter Wesley Pritchard informing listeners on the work of AWTTC in particular our Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG).

[Listen to the interview here](#)

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Another informative Learning at Lunch session

The one hour Learning at Lunch session was held online on October 2nd and included a rapid therapeutics update, Oral Morphine Equivalence use in National Prescribing Indicators and All Wales Adult Asthma Management and Prescribing Guidelines.

[Recordings available here](#)

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

Review of dostarlimab (Jemperli®) by the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group

The following One Wales Medicines Assessment Group (OWMAG) recommendation has been endorsed by the AWMMSG and ratified by Welsh Government.

[Read more 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 2024

The National Prescribing Indicator (NPI) report, analysing data for the quarter ending June 2024 has been published.

[Read more here](#)

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

New SPIRA dashboard focusing on opioid usage published

A new dashboard looking at opioid usage in line with the National Prescribing Indicators is now available on the Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA).

[Access the dashboard here](#)

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

WNPU publication – diagnosis of death by neurological criteria

A paper by Dr Laurence Gray Director of the Welsh National Poisons Unit titled, "The role of the United Kingdom National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) in the diagnosis of death according to neurological criteria in poisoned and non-poisoned patients" has been published in the Journal of the Intensive Care Society.

[Read more here](#)

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

Royal College of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Conference 2024

Congratulations to Gill and Laurence from the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) Cardiff unit who presented a poster abstract at the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Conference, Gateshead in October 2024.

[Read more here](#)

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

NPIS Cardiff New Starter

NPIS Cardiff would like to welcome our new starter Vrinda Mani to the team! Vrinda is our newest Specialist in Poisons Information and will help to provide the national 24/7 phone advice service, giving management advice to healthcare professionals dealing with patients with suspected poisoning and also to help review and update our TOXBASE database.

[Read more here](#)



WNP
Welsh National Poisons Unit
Uned Gwenwynau Cenedlaethol Cymru

Medical Toxicology Course 2024

The National Poisons Information Service (Cardiff unit) hosted our annual two-day Medical Toxicology course in Cardiff on 4th and 5th October.

This event provides healthcare professionals and students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of managing cases of poisoning, as well as providing information about the latest trends and research in the field of medical toxicology.

[Read more here](#)



Yellowcard
Centre
Wales

Medicine Safety Week 2024

The Yellow Card Centre Wales team had successful days raising awareness for #MedSafetyWeek 2024 at both UHW and UHL.

[Read more here](#)



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