

Katherine Chaplin, Jessica Davis, Bridget-Ann Kenny, Rosie Spears, Gail Woodland and Anthony Williams
All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre, Cardiff, Wales.

Background

- Standard of care in NHS Wales for newly diagnosed metastatic hormone-sensitive (hormone-naïve, hormone dependent) prostate cancer (HSPC) is docetaxel delivered by intravenous infusion in a hospital setting. Docetaxel is also a treatment option for newly diagnosed high-risk locally advanced prostate cancer.
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, delivery of systemic anticancer treatment became challenging.
- Clinicians in Wales indicated the need for access to other options, ideally oral preparations with less immunosuppression to treat newly diagnosed HSPC to reduce hospital contact time and burden of care.
- Here we aim to provide an overview of how three oral preparations were made available within the NHS in Wales.

Method

- A decision regarding the availability of oral therapies for new patients with HSPC was made using an expedited One Wales process.
- In the absence of health technology appraisal advice, the One Wales process introduced the means to access a medicine (or medicines) for a clearly defined and specific cohort of patients for an unmet need. The usual One Wales process can be seen in Figure 1.
- The key differences were a shorter consultation period and the final decision was made by Chair's action as it was not possible to convene a full group meeting in the early stages of the pandemic (beginning of April 2020).

For more info on the One Wales process please check out posters 286 and 287 or follow the link

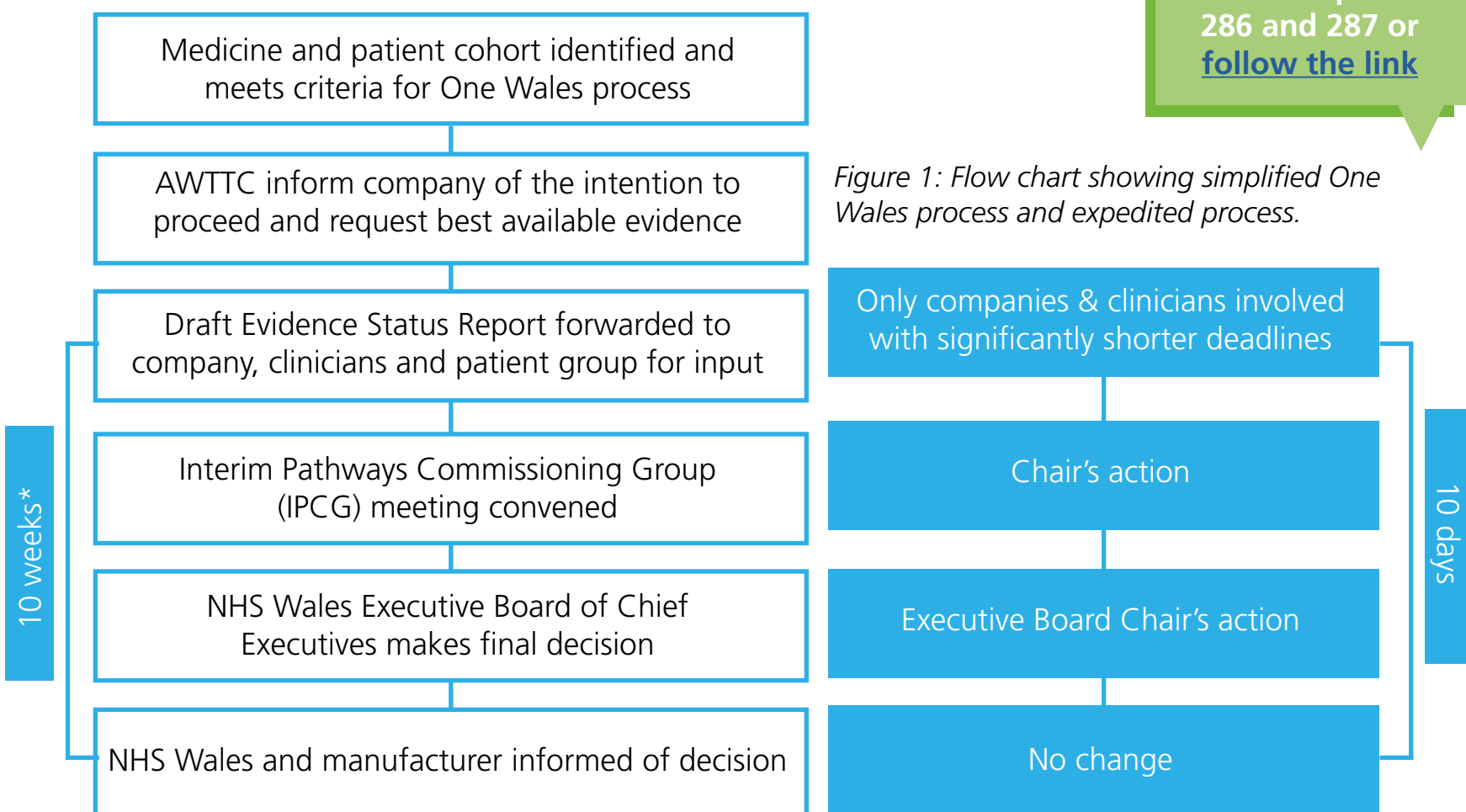


Figure 1: Flow chart showing simplified One Wales process and expedited process.

Results

- An Interim One Wales Guidance document was completed in 10 days.
- At the start of April 2020 abiraterone acetate (ZYTIGA®), apalutamide (Erleada®) and enzalutamide (Xtandi®) were made available within NHS Wales for the treatment of high-risk locally advanced and metastatic, hormone-sensitive prostate cancer for an initial period of three months during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- NHS England made enzalutamide and abiraterone acetate available for newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients in May 2020. Following health technology appraisal, abiraterone acetate was recommended in Scotland as a first-line treatment for high-risk metastatic prostate cancer in January 2020. This was extended to cover other metastatic patients in June 2020.
- At the three-month review (July 2020) by the Interim Pathways Commissioning Group (IPCG) a decision was made to re-assess the advice. Re-assessment of the advice followed the standard One Wales process. Following the IPCG meeting in October 2020, the Board of Chief Executives endorsed the recommendation in December 2020 and the service and manufacturers were notified.
- Following the reassessment IPCG decided that apalutamide could no longer be supported for use in NHS Wales. This is reflected in the data presented for January to March 2021 showing a reduction in apalutamide use compared with the previous nine months.
- At the time of the review 111 patients in NHS Wales had received treatment.

Table 1: Number of patients receiving abiraterone acetate, enzalutamide and apalutamide by guidance phase.

	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Dec 2020*	Jan-Mar 2021*
Abiraterone acetate	59	80	39
Enzalutamide	26	40	39
Apalutamide	26	7	1

*East and West Wales cancer centres only



Conclusions

- As a result of the adapted One Wales process, Wales was the first UK nation to issue advice on access to these oral therapies for hormone-sensitive prostate cancer during COVID-19.
- The initial three-month period provided clinicians and IPCG members with the opportunity to reflect upon, and rationalise this new treatment pathway, specifically in relation to how to make best use of NHS resources.

Ongoing Work

As One Wales advice is interim to health technology appraisal the team will continue to monitor the situation. NICE recommendations for these medicines are anticipated soon.

Take-away

- A rapid decision was required to facilitate access to oral prostate cancer medicines during covid
- The One Wales process was expedited to address this need
- Wales was the first nation to offer advice for these oral medicines
- Reassessment at 3 months allowed reflection and rationalisation of the decision

Please get in touch at:
awttc@wales.nhs.uk

