

Improving Patient Access to Medicines in Wales: Overview And Review Of The Impact Of The One Wales Medicines Process

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Background

- A review of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process by Welsh Government in 2014 indicated that there was inconsistent access to medicines for patient cohorts in Wales where an unmet clinical need was identified.
- The All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), alongside representatives from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee and IPFR Panel co-ordinators, developed the One Wales process in 2015 in response to this review. The process aimed to reduce the need for multiple IPFRs and to allow a national decision on the availability of a medicine, addressing an unmet need in the service.
- The Interim Pathways Commissioning Group (IPCG) drawn from healthcare professionals (HCPs) in the seven Health Boards (HBs) made recommendations on both licensed (interim to Health Technology Appraisal [HTA]) and off-label/ unlicensed (where no suitably licensed alternative exists) medicines via this One Wales process.
- One Wales decisions are based on the available evidence of clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. Once approved, these interim decisions ensure that there is equal access to these medicines across NHS Wales. The decisions are reviewed every 12 months and superseded by HTA advice.
- Here we aim to provide an overview and review of the impact of the One Wales process within the NHS in Wales.

For more info on the One Wales process please check out posters 284 and 287 or follow the link

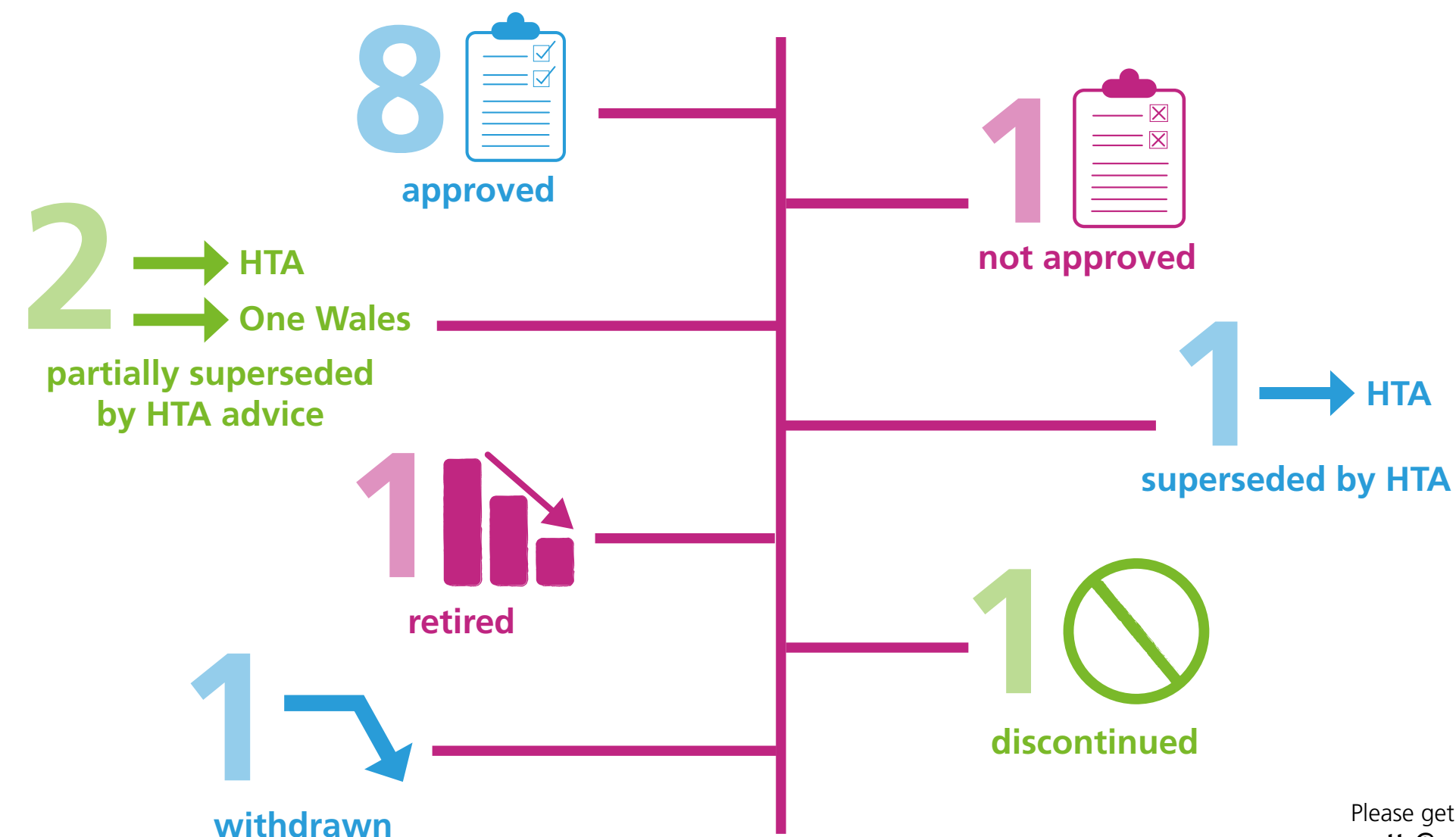
Method

- The number of medicines considered for assessment by the One Wales process up to March 2020 were identified. Each of these medicines were categorised according to how they were further actioned (considered, referred, or rejected). Those medicines assessed by One Wales were further categorised (see results) and whether outcome data was received at the 12 month review was noted. The results for medicines that were deemed suitable for HTA are included.
- The All Wales IPFR database was reviewed to see if any of the medicines that had received a positive One Wales recommendation had been subsequently submitted and considered by a HB IPFR panel in Wales.
- As part of the review, IPCG members were interviewed as part of their four year membership review and asked to provide feedback on their experience of the One Wales process.

Results

- A total of 87 medicines have been considered for the One Wales process: 15 were assessed by One Wales, 43 were found suitable for HTA, 22 were deemed suitable for the IPFR process and five fell under other categories: Welsh Government agreement (1); directed to clinical network (1); directed to HB/commissioning arrangement (3).
- Of the 43 medicines considered suitable for HTA, 33 were recommended, 4 were not recommended, 3 have a statement of advice, 2 are in progress with NICE and 1 has been withdrawn from the market.
- Of the 15 medicines assessed through One Wales, 12 were approved at initial assessment and 3 were not approved (1 was subsequently approved and 1 was withdrawn).
- Four medicines had been submitted through IPFR despite having a positive One Wales recommendation for that indication. Two submissions (50%) were prior to One Wales advice being implemented within the relevant Health Board.
- Outcome data were provided by clinicians for six of the eight medicines that had undergone an annual review. In the majority of cases treatment was associated with a positive outcome. Response rates varied from partial to a complete response. Other patients were reported to have had a good or optimal response.
- Feedback from IPCG members was highly positive. It was noted that the volume of assessments has now fallen as the original backlog has been cleared. Some of the feedback is shown to the right.

15 medicines assessed through One Wales



Would welcome induction and refresher training sessions

Good debate and scientific evaluation

Would welcome more awareness of the future work plan

Well run and supported

Review process is efficient

Conclusions

- Results indicate that the process is addressing an unmet need within the NHS in Wales, improving access to medicines that are providing a positive clinical impact on patient care, and allowing a national decision on the availability of medicines.
- Feedback from IPCG members was highly positive. It was noted that the volume of assessments has now fallen as the original backlog has been cleared. Some of the feedback is shown above.

Future Work

- Following feedback from IPCG members, AWTTC will be running training days for IPCG members as part of their induction and continuing professional development.
- AWTTC will be undertaking research on the potential barriers faced by HCPs in providing clinical outcome data on One Wales medicines.

Take-away

- A review of the impact of the One Wales process was undertaken covering a four year period
- Medicines considered for assessment were reviewed alongside IPFR data and any outcome data collected
- Committee members were contacted to provide feedback on the process
- Results were positive, One Wales is addressing a service need