

# **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008 COMMENCING 10.30AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP**

### **Members**

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist North Wales
Miss Nuala Brennan	National Public Health Service Wales
Dr Mark Daniels	GP South West Wales
Dr Martin Duerden	GP North Wales
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Kath Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Mrs Susanna Jacks	GP South Wales
Dr Steve Lennox	Secondary Care Consultant
Dr Ashok Rayani	GP Mid and South West Wales
Mrs Delyth Simons	Pharmacist Mid & West Wales
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr John Terry	Secondary care pharmacist
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist South East Wales

### **In attendance**

Mrs Susan Baboolal (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre)  
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Resource Centre / Welsh Medicines Partnership)  
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)  
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

### **Key of abbreviations**

ASPBs	Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies
AWDAC	All Wales Dietetic Advisory Committee
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
A&E	Accident & Emergency
BNF	British National Formulary
BSC	Business Services Centre
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CHCs	Community Health Councils
CSM	Committee of Safety of Medicines
DoH	Department of Health
DMARD	Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug

GP	General Practitioner
HSW	Health Solutions Wales
HoPMM	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
LHB	Local Health Board
LMCs	Local Medical Committees
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NLIAH	National Leadership & Innovation Agency for Healthcare
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPHS	National Public Health Service
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
RAG	Renal Advisory Group
RPSGB	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

**1. Welcome and introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members.

**2. Apologies**

Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professions eligible to prescribe  
 Mr Ken Nazareth, Pharmacist South East Wales  
 Dr David Webb, Secondary Care Consultant

**3. Declarations of interest**

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. There were none.

**4. Chair's report**

The Chair confirmed that Mrs Sara Thomas had resigned as deputy Mid & West Pharmacist member.

Members were informed that Mr John Terry would be arriving late, and Dr Martin Duerden, Mrs Louise Howard-Baker, Mr Bill Duffield and Dr Jonathan Jones had been delayed on the train and were expected to arrive late.

The Chair confirmed that all future AWPAG papers would be edited by WMP prior to them being presented to AWMSG.

**5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

**Matters arising:**

**Thromboprophylaxis to prevent venous thromboembolism**

The Chair confirmed that a national group had been set up to address this issue and developments would be fed back to AWPAG and AWMSG.

**Prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (epo) in secondary care**

The Chair confirmed the views of the AWMSG Steering Committee that this issue would

be significantly influenced by the reorganisation of NHS Wales and members confirmed that it is being actively progressed by the Renal Network.

### **Prescribing incentives in secondary care**

The Chairman confirmed that the issue of incentivising secondary care is included within the AWMSG Medicines Strategy, the recommendations of which will be considered later in the meeting.

### **Re-naming of incentive scheme**

The Chairman asked members to suggest potential names.

It was noted that Swansea had re-named their scheme to Prescribing Management Scheme. The following suggestions were made:

- Prescribing Development Scheme
- Prescribing Improvement Scheme
- Cost Effectiveness Scheme
- Prescribing Safety and Quality Effectiveness Scheme
- Quality Prescribing Programme
- Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme
- Welsh Prescribing Programme
- Prescribing Clinical Development Programme

The above suggestions were narrowed down to two - Prescribing Management Scheme and Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme. The Chair asked members to vote and the majority agreed: **Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme**

### **Special formulations**

The Chair confirmed that the paper had been edited by WMP and would be presented to AWMSG tomorrow.

### **Diabetes consensus guidelines**

The Chair confirmed that comments on the draft guidelines had been sought from AWPAG at very short notice. Several members provided prompt and invaluable amendments which were accepted by the guideline group. It was noted that the official launch of the guidelines is expected next month.

Dr Martin Duerden, Mrs Louise Howard-Baker, Mr Bill Duffield and Dr Jonathan Jones joined the meeting.

## 6. Prescribing reviews

The Chair confirmed that the Respiratory and Endocrine key messages papers had been endorsed by AWMSG and posted on the website. Members discussed the purpose of the document and mode of dissemination. The Chair invited Mrs Baboolal to explain the background to enclosure 4 - a proposal for the future development and format of any future key message documents. It was agreed that AWPAG would consider future chapters, discuss and prioritise the issues, and WeMeReC would develop the document for consideration by AWMSG. It was noted that future papers would not contain recommendations, would merely present the facts, and a lengthy consultation process would not be necessary.

Members sought clarification from the AWMSG Steering Committee of the purpose and aims of the documents.

Mr Terry joined the meeting.

### **Infections**

The review of primary care prescribing data for BNF chapter 5 Infections was discussed. Members were invited to identify the priorities of the review so that the key messages could be developed by WeMeReC into a paper. AWPAG welcomed the recommendations in the paper and also noted the following :

Signpost the STAR programme,

Engage dental communities in the prescribing messages

Prolonged courses of anti-fungals: use of acutes or repeat dispensing rather than repeat prescribing.

Prescribing of specialist medicines such as valganciclovir from primary care

Involvement of antibiotic pharmacists in England

Closer working with NPHS

Further data on antibiotic prescribing patterns by out of hours providers and the acute sector would be of interest.

### **Gastro-intestinal**

The Chair asked members to comment on the draft paper which is also currently out for consultation with industry and NHSIF and due to be presented to AWMSG December. Suggestions were noted by WeMeReC and the author.

### **Endocrine**

The Chair confirmed that AWMSG had asked that AWPAG work with PCQF to develop an audit. PCQIF are also meeting this week and have had sight of the Endocrine Key Prescribing Messages.

### **Cardiovascular**

The following issues were identified and discussed:

Statins in accordance with NICE guidance

ACEs ARBs

Clopidogrel

Doxazosin

Omega 3 oil

Primary care prescribing of low molecular weight heparins  
Lack of audit of patients on amiodarone

## 7. Prescribing indicators

### **National indicators 2009-2010**

The Chair invited Mrs Louise Howard-Baker to provide an update of the work of the indicator working group. Mrs Howard-Baker thanked members for their input in the development of the paper which was presented to AWMSG in August 2008. Subsequent to the AWMSG meeting, the evidence-base of chiral medicines had been strengthened. It was confirmed that the final draft of the paper had been posted on the AWMSG website and forwarded to Health Solutions Wales.

It was agreed that Mr Jonathan Simms would take up the role as Chairman of the Indicator Working Group and Mrs Louise Howard-Baker would assume the role of indicator working group member. Mrs Simons asked to step down from the working group.

There was discussion over whether the current indicators should remain for 2010-2011 to allow for a period of stability and audit. It was noted that NHSIF are developing tools to audit the uptake of AWMSG and NICE guidance – a recommendation within the medicines strategy. AWPAG expressed interest in working alongside NHSIF in this. It was noted that the Antimicrobial Working Group has the expertise to input into the development of a national indicator. The Chair conveyed AWMSG's enthusiasm for a quality antibiotic indicator.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair & JH to discuss with Antimicrobial Working Group**

### **Local comparators**

The Chair provided the background and confirmed that although the issue of local comparators did not fall within the work programme of AWMSG there was lack of clarity as to who was responsible for ensuring that the baskets and indicators were up to date. Concern was expressed that local comparators are taken out of context and used inappropriately. Following discussions at AWPAG July 08 and subsequently with the Chair of HOPMMs it was considered appropriate for HoPPMs to take the lead on the local comparators but to take these to AWPAG for comment.

AWPAG rationalised the current list of local comparators using work undertaken earlier in the year by JS. However it was noted that with ready accessibility of CASPA data, monitoring of some of the local comparators could be easily undertaken at a local level. Comparators based on Defined Daily Doses however are not readily measured and AWPAG would appreciate the updating of these baskets by WMP as previously agreed, pending the establishment of WAPSU.

It was suggested that local comparators based on key prescribing messages, other AWPAG documentation and 1000 lives campaign should routinely be discussed. These could be trialled with a view to becoming national indicators.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair to provide updated list to WMP**

**AWPAG & HOPMMs to consider additional local comparators**

**8. Statin template update**

The Chair invited members to consider the revision of the AWMSG template for the prescribing of statins. It was noted that the template had received consensus support from the Cardiac networks. The revised document provided a pragmatic summary of available evidence with some additional prescribing advice which could be adapted at a local level. Dr Duerden agreed to incorporate members' suggestions into the update template which will be considered by AWMSG at their meeting in December 2008.

**ACTION**

**MD to update template in line with comments at AWPAG**

**WMP to add to AMWSG agenda in December 2008**

**9. Antiplatelet template update**

The Chair provided the background and asked members to comment on the detail of the revised antiplatelet template developed by Mr Trevor Batt from Gwent. Members provided comments which were noted by Stuart Evans who agreed to work with Trevor Batt to finalise the template. The Chair agreed to seek advice from the AWMSG Steering Committee with regard to editorial/consultation process.

**ACTION**

**SE to liaise with Trevor Batt to update the template in line with comments at AWPAG**

**Chair to seek views from AWMSG Steering Committee regarding consultation**

**10. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists meeting**

The Chair drew members' attention to the minutes of the interface pharmacists meeting held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The following specific issues were discussed:

**Low molecular weight heparin**

The Chair informed members that low molecular weight heparin falls under the remit of the Welsh Thromboprophylaxis Group.

**Shared care of tenofovir**

The Chair informed members that the AWMSG criteria for shared care had been applied to tenofovir. The conclusion of the interface pharmacists was that tenofovir should only be prescribed in secondary care. The Chair agreed to relay this decision to AWMSG.

**Traffic light system**

It was confirmed there is national agreement to develop consistent terminology for shared care and a proposal is currently under consideration by the Interface pharmacist group.

**Subcutaneous Methotrexate**

The Chair informed members that the interface pharmacists will be considering the most appropriate place for prescribing at its January meeting. It was noted that this formulation of methotrexate may be used in a non-rheumatological indications with diverse methods of supply.

Members were invited to forward any further views to TL or SE.

**11. Prioritisation of the Medicines Strategy**

AWPAG considered the 48 recommendations and allocated a priority in relation to each recommendation. Some members expressed reservation, as they felt it was difficult to prioritise the recommendations during this time of uncertainty and reorganisation within NHS Wales. The opportunity to reconsider the prioritisations in light of developments as detailed on page 4 is therefore welcomed.

**12. NHSIF draft minutes July 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft minutes of the meeting held in July 2008. No issues were raised.

**13. NHSIF draft agenda October 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft agenda for the October 2008 meeting. No issues were raised.

**14. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting August 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the AWMSG draft minutes of the meeting held in August 2008. No issues were raised.

**15. Any other business**

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting.

**Date and time of future meetings to be held at The Hill Education and Conference Centre in Abergavenny commencing 10.30 am:**

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009**

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009**