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| <b>Enclosure No:</b>   | 7/AWMSG/0209   |
| <b>Agenda Item No:</b> | 10 – Update on AWPAG   |
| <b>Author:</b>         | All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group                         |
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## **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2009 COMMENCING 10.30 AM 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                        |
| Dr Mark Daniels         | GP South West Wales                           |
| Mr Bill Duffield        | Pharmacist North Wales                        |
| Mrs Kath Hier           | Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe |
| Mrs Susanna Jacks       | GP South Wales                                |
| Mr Jonathan Simms       | Pharmacist South East Wales                   |
| Mr John Terry           | Secondary care pharmacist                     |
| Dr David Webb           | Secondary Care Consultant                     |

#### **In attendance**

Mrs Ruth Lang (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 Ashok Rayani, GP Mid and South West Wales

Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales

Miss Nuala Brennan, National Public Health Service Wales

Mr Stuart Evans, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales

Mrs Delyth Simons, Pharmacist Mid & West Wales

Mrs Judith Vincent, Pharmacist South West Wales

Dr Steve Lennox, 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 reported that funding for the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit had been withdrawn for 2009-2010, however it was hoped that this decision would be reconsidered for 2010-2011. Members expressed their disappointment and concern over the impact this would have in progressing aspects of therapeutics in Wales which are not directly linked to appraisals; i.e. the remaining work of AWMSG, its sub-groups and the Medicines Strategy for Wales. It was confirmed that the AWMSG Chairman would be writing to the Minister for Health and Social Services highlighting the implications of this decision.

The Chair confirmed there are currently no membership issues. A suggestion was made to include a dental prescriber in the membership and to invite Health Solution Wales to appropriate AWPAG meetings. The Chair raised the need for close communication with Welsh Assembly Government and, in the absence of a WAG representative, agreed to discuss this further with Mr Russell Pope who had recently been appointed.

The Chair reported on issues raised at a recent AWMSG Steering Committee meeting and confirmed that a group is being set up by the Welsh Assembly to address Cardiovascular Risk Assessment. Input into this Group has been sought by AWMSG/AWPAG. Members were informed that a request had been made to Welsh Assembly for AWMSG input into the development of clinical guidelines at an early stage.

**5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting**

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

**Matters arising:**

**Special formulations**

The Chair confirmed that AWMSG had considered the paper on Specials / Unlicensed Medicines at their meeting in October and had suggested that the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit WAPSU / Welsh Medicines Partnership collate necessary further information and bring a paper to a future AWMSG meeting. However funding for the unit has since been withdrawn.

The group discussed the raising awareness and the acceptable sourcing of specials. Validation of the drug baskets was not considered necessary because of the changing nature of the preparations which can be identified via a CASPA search of average cost per item. Members had found that raising the issue at the annual GP prescribing visit was productive. Recent guidance from British Association of Dermatologists on the use of topical specials was discussed and will be disseminated following the meeting.

Experience in England and future options for the use and supply of specials across Wales were raised. John Terry and John Simms agreed to liaise with Judith Vincent outside of the meeting, and bring the suggestions back to a future AWPAG meeting for discussions.

**ACTION**

**JT , JS & JV to bring paper to April AWPAG**

**Diabetes consensus guidelines**

Members reported that problems are arising as the Diabetes Consensus Guidelines conflict with advice from AWMSG and NICE in relation to the prescribing of statins. Members agreed there is a need to clear the current ambiguity, and Mr Duffield agreed to provide details of concerns raised which will be raised at the next AWMSG Steering Committee.

**ACTION**

**WD to provide details**

**National indicators 2010-2011**

Members were briefly updated on the work of the Antimicrobial Working Group. Mr Simms agreed to contact Karen Fitzgerald, Chair of the Working Group, to clarify potential collaboration in relation to development of an antibiotic national indicator. Louise Howard Baker updated members in relation to the inappropriate generic indicator and suggested that the indicator working group defer updating the generic basket until the next quarter. Mr Simms agreed to contact the indicator working group and will report back at the next meeting.

**Statin template**

The Chairman confirmed that the AWMSG template for prescribing statins had been endorsed by AWMSG and posted on the website with a 1 year review date.

**6. National thromboprophylaxis guidance update**

The Chair had received a report from Stuart Evans stating that the National

Thromboprophylaxis Committee had met and were intending to develop a consultation document, ideally for March 2009. Consultation would involve AWPAG/AWMSG.

**7. Antiplatelet template update**

The Chair provided the background and asked members to comment on the detail of the revised antiplatelet template. It was confirmed that WMP are in the process of editing the document. The Chair noted the comments and invited suggestions with regard to consultees. The following were noted:

- Cardiothoracic surgeons
- Welsh Cardiovascular Society
- Welsh Vascular Surgeons
- Association of Physicians in Wales /Geriatricians
- Cardiac networks

**ACTION**

**Chair to update template in light of discussion and provide to WMP editing team  
Chair to liaise with WMP with regard to the consultation**

**8. BNF Chapter reviews – identifying key prescribing messages**

The Chair referred members to the review of the BNF infections chapter produced by WeMeReC on behalf of the Welsh Medicines Partnership. Members were informed that the document had originated in AWPAG, but had been subsequently developed by WMP in the new format. It provided an exemplar of a strategic report intended to be produced by WAPSU. The group welcomed the document which provides succinct information that can be used locally. The need for closer working with dentists was raised. Antiviral use was proposed as a local comparator and will be considered further by HoPMMs. The Chair concluded by confirming that the document would be presented to AWMSG in February.

**Chair to investigate links with dental practitioners**

The group were interested in a trial live review of prescribing data. There was discussion over dissemination of information and improving access to current therapeutic issues. Suggestions included WeMeReC distilled electronic bulletins; greater dissemination to GP prescribing leads, medicines and therapeutics committees, clinical tutors and 'packages' for protected learning sessions. The role of Map of Medicine was discussed and the fact that decision making tools /pathways are already integrated into some GP systems.

It was confirmed that funding made available by Welsh Assembly had been exhausted, and no further documents could be produced. Members expressed disappointment that this work could no longer continue in its present form, as it provides valuable information to prescribers in Wales.

**9. Local comparators (low level indicators) and Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme**

The Chair tabled the current local comparators which were agreed at the October meeting. The list was updated to include the suggestions from AWMSG and previous discussions. JS agreed to maintain the list and ensure liaison with HoPMMs. Members agreed that input into the discussions by a representative of HSW would be helpful, in particular regarding the previously popular benchmarking bar charts.

**ACTION**

**JS to liaise with HSW & HoPMMs  
Comparators to be standing item for update  
WMP to invite HSW to April AWPAG**

The group discussed the 2008/9 prescribing incentive scheme audit on anticoagulation and supported the collation of the results. The group welcomed the provisional offer of support in data collection and analysis from the department.

**JS to provide data collection template to WMP**

The Chair informed the group that the Primary care and Quality Information Service had agreed to develop audit tools to support a limited number of key Prescribing Messages. The group discussed recent chapter reviews and would welcome an audit based on the endocrine Key Messages.

**10. Prescribing Strategy recommendation 19**

The Chair invited comment on enclosure 4 – recommendation 19 of the medicines strategy: *“AWMSG will work with clinical networks and specialist groups to ensure that national clinical pathways and guidance include cost effective and evidence based prescribing”*.

The group felt that further work is needed to achieve this recommendation. Some networks are established in Wales and further networks will be developed with the NHS reorganisation. Care pathways are currently being developed to meet Clinical Futures objectives and it is important that mechanisms are in place to incorporate independent advice on safe and cost –effective prescribing. Therapeutic input into the GMS enhanced service specifications was also raised.

**ACTION**

**Chair to clarify current position with Russell Pope**

**11. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists meeting**

The Chair drew members’ attention to three specific issues from the interface pharmacists meeting held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Minutes of the meeting will be included in the April AWPAG papers.

**Discharging of elderly patients admitted to hospital on dosette boxes**

The Chair informed members that the interface pharmacists had raised the issue of the discharge of elderly patients who have been admitted to hospital using dosette boxes.

The group were aware of previous work reviewing the wider issue of assessment and use of dosette boxes and propose to consider the narrower remit only. An efficient and safe system is needed and AWPAG supported the proposal to develop this project.

**ACTION**

**Interface pharmacists to address the issue at their next meeting (July 09)**

**Shared care terminology**

The Chair drew members’ attention to the amended wording and classification of shared care and invited comments. Members agreed with the content of the document and the Chair agreed to take to a future meeting of AWMSG for their consideration and endorsement.

**ACTION**

**Chair to take to AWMSG**

### **Subcutaneous Methotrexate**

The Chair informed members that the interface pharmacists had considered the most appropriate place for prescribing subcutaneous methotrexate for adults with rheumatoid arthritis as detailed in the enclosure. The group supported the proposal and the specified criteria.

#### **ACTION**

**Chair to take to AWMSG**

### **12. Incentivising secondary care**

The Chair invited comment on enclosure 6, a document developed by WMP and based on previous AWPAG papers addressing the issue of incentivising secondary care. Members felt there should be more emphasis on identifying a potential incentive and considering what areas incentives should apply. There was discussion over devolved budgets within secondary care and applicability of indicators. Members considered the paper was full of complexities and a suggestion was made that AWPAG could consider developing a proposal for one indicator for consideration by AWMSG. Mr Terry offered to take the paper to the Chief Pharmacists for their views. It was noted that professional and secretarial support for developing the proposal would be unavailable due to withdrawal of funding for WAPSU.

#### **ACTION**

**Mr Terry to seek the views of the Chief Pharmacists**

**Mr Terry and Dr Webb to consider the actions outlined in Encl 6**

**To be reviewed by AWPAG April 09**

### **13. AWMSG – Medicines reconciliation indicator**

Members were referred to enclosure 7, a document authored by Mr Jeremy Savage, Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser, proposing the introduction of a medicines management high level indicator for the draft service and financial framework target. The Chair confirmed that AWMSG had supported the proposal; however, due to time constraints, members of AWPAG had not been afforded opportunity to comment on the document prior to it being considered by AWMSG.

### **14. NHSIF draft minutes of October 2009 meeting**

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

### **15. NHSIF agenda January 2009**

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft agenda for the October 2008 meeting. The Chair confirmed that the AWMSG Steering Committee had requested that NHSIF and AWPAG work together to develop a project to audit the uptake and implementation of AWMSG and NICE guidance. Members suggested that the project outline be considered at a future AWPAG meeting. The Chair asked WMP to email all members to seek a nomination for the working group.

#### **ACTION**

**WMP to email members and seek nomination**

### **16. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting December 2008**

The Chair drew members' attention to the AWMSG draft minutes of the meeting held in December 2008. AWMSG had considered the prioritisation of the recommendations of the Medicines Strategy and recommendation 33 was subsequently changed from priority 3 to 2, and recommendation 48 had changed from 2 to 1.

**17. Any other business**

Mrs Lang informed members that Professor Philip Routledge had been tasked by the Minister for Health and Social Services to address issues around availability and access to new medicines within NHS Wales, particularly in relation to cancer medicines. Mrs Lang confirmed that a report would be presented to the Minister within the next couple of weeks.

The Chair referred members to an MHRA consultation on measures to strengthen the medicines' supply chain and reduce the risk from Counterfeit Medicines and confirmed that comments on the proposals are invited by 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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:**

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

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

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