

DRAFT

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on

Wednesday 21 March 2018 commencing 9.30 am

At the St Michael's Centre, 10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Voting members

Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Dr Lisa Adams	General Practitioner, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr Mike Curson	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles	ABPI Wales Industry Group
Ms Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf
Mrs Jane Barnard	Lay member and deputy
Mr Aled Falvey	Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Powys
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist, Velindre
Dr Laurence Gray	Consultant, Cardiff and Vale

In attendance (non-voting)

Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Miss Christine Collier	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC
Mrs Anne Coles	AWTTC
Mrs Gail Woodland	Pharmacist, Welsh Medicines Information Centre
Dr Nicholas Reid	Consultant Antimicrobial Pharmacist, Public Health Wales

Key of abbreviations

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWAGG	All Wales Antimicrobial Guideline Group
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme
GPC	General Practitioners Committee
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
SPIRA	Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis
UTI	Urinary tract infection

1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed new members Aled Falvey, representing "Other professionals eligible to prescribe" and Dr Laurence Gray, Consultant Physician, Cardiff and Vale. Members were also informed that another two new members had joined the group, Dr Richard Brown, General Practitioner, Hywel Dda and Dr Anders Skarsten, Consultant Psychiatrist, Powys, but they were unable to attend today's meeting. The group were informed that Sally Lewis had changed roles and is now the National Clinical Lead for Value-based Care. It was agreed by the AWMSG Steering Committee that Sally could continue to be a member of AWPAG in this capacity. Stefan Fec has now completed his maximum of eight years of office and the Chair thanked him for his invaluable contribution. Stefan has now become the Community Pharmacy member of AWMSG. Steve Simmonds as the deputy Community Pharmacy representative is keen to become the full member and we are currently awaiting approval from the Welsh Royal Pharmaceutical Society regarding this post. Peter Horvath-Howard has resigned and had nominated a deputy; however, this was not accepted by the AWMSG Steering Committee. The Chair relayed that there had been some confusion over Peter Horvath-Howard's membership in that Peter was a member of AWPAG as a GP representing Powys Teaching Health Board and not GPC Wales. The Chair continued that a GP/Hospital Consultant representative was still required for Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf, and should any member wish to nominate someone to please contact Anne Coles. Members introduced themselves.

2.0 Apologies

Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Miss Sian Evans	Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, Public Health Wales
Dr Sally Lewis	Assistant Medical Director/Primary Care Clinical Director, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner, Aneurin Bevan
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers
Dr Richard Brown	General Practitioner, Hywel Dda
Dr Anders Skarsten	Consultant, Powys
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes	AWTTC
Mr Steve Simmonds	Community Pharmacist
Ms Miranda Morton	Welsh Government
Ms Carla Llewellyn	Welsh Government

3.0 Declarations of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any interests relevant to the meeting. No conflicting interests were declared. Members were asked to complete Declaration of Interests and Confidentiality Agreement forms.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair thanked members for their contribution and had nothing further to report.

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting – December 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy, one minor amendment was agreed, and the minutes were approved.

Actions of the previous meeting were addressed.

9.0 Best Practice Day

Fiona Walker noted on line 4 Fiona Woods should read Fiona Walker.

Action: AWTTTC to alter Woods to Walker

11.0 Any Other Business

All Wales Prescription Handwriting Standards

The Chair briefly explained that this document had been brought to AWPAG by Stefan Fec, Community Pharmacist. When there is a problem with understanding handwriting on WP10s it is often hard to contact prescribers following their clinics, leaving the pharmacist in a very difficult position. The document sets out minimum standards for prescription handwriting and has been to the All Wales Quality and Safety Pharmacist Group and is now with Stefan Fec. The Chair agreed to follow this document up with Stefan as he is no longer a member of AWPAG.

Action: The Chair to follow up with Stefan Fec

Shared Care

Alan Clatworthy informed the group that there was nothing further to share with the group today. Guidance had been issued regarding shared care at the end of January by NHS England which will now be incorporated in the All Wales guidance. Document to be brought to next meeting.

Action: Alan Clatworthy to update document for the next AWPAG meeting

6.0 Feedback from February and March 2018 AWMSG meetings for information

Kath Haines and Claire Thomas gave feedback from the above meetings.

- [Safe Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors](#)
Kath Haines informed members that following discussion at the meeting in February this document is now back on the agenda for AWPAG.
- [All Wales Guide: Pharmacotherapy for Smoking Cessation](#) was supported and endorsed by AWMSG.
- [Common Ailments Formulary](#) was supported and endorsed by AWMSG.
- [National Prescribing Indicators 2018–2019](#)
Claire Thomas informed members that this document was supported and endorsed by AWMSG and members were pleased to see a change in focus of the prescribing safety indicators. Members were also informed that the NPI Slide Set was now available on the AWMSG website.
- [National Prescribing Indicators 2018–2019: Supporting Information for Prescribers](#) was supported and endorsed by AWMSG.
- [National Prescribing Indicators 2017–2018 Analysis of Prescribing Data to September 2017](#) was presented to AWMSG for information.
- [Therapeutic Priorities and CEPP Summary 2018–2019](#) was supported and endorsed by AWMSG.
- [AWMSG Five Year Strategy 2018–2023](#)
Rob Bracchi informed the group that AWMSG had supported and endorsed this document and gave a brief overview of the challenges ahead highlighted in the document.

Bethan Tranter and Bev Woods joined the meeting.

7.0 Documents for discussion

7.1 Primary Care Empirical UTI Treatment Guidelines

Nicholas Reid presented the Primary Care Empirical UTI Treatment Guidelines, which have been put together by AWAGG.

The development of these guidelines involved tailoring existing guidance having looked at antibiotic resistance patterns across Wales, and how they are affected by factors such as age. As a result, recommendations for antibiotic treatment are intended to limit the rise of antibiotic resistance within particular demographic groups across Wales. It was highlighted that for this reason, even the short term use of nitrofurantoin as an option for pregnant women has been included. Reducing the incidence of *E. coli* bacteraemia was also a primary aim of these guidelines.

A question was raised on how these guidelines will fit with NICE UTI treatment guidelines due to be published soon. It was confirmed the NICE guidelines due to be published in April will focus on prophylaxis, and treatment guidelines are expected in November. A Welsh Health Circular is due to be launched shortly with reduction targets for *E. coli* bacteraemias.

Value of the statement regarding the use of methenamine hippurate as an option for non-antibiotic prophylaxis of recurrent UTI was queried, given that it is neither recommended nor discouraged. It was therefore agreed that it should be removed. A similar query was raised regarding the text for cranberry products, but as this would not be 'prescribed', it was decided that the current text could remain.

It was recommended that some of the existing content within the guideline be drawn out as a list of quality statements.

It was agreed that it was not necessary for this guideline to return to AWPAG, and could proceed with consultation with e-mail sign off following this.

Action: Take out mention of methenamine hippurate

Action: Cross-reference to existing guidance on hydration

Action: Pull out some key quality statements

Action: To consultation then AWPAG e-mail sign off and AWMSG Steering Committee

Gail Woodland joined the meeting

7.2 Common Ailments Service Patient Information Leaflets

The Common Ailments Service Patient Information Leaflets were presented by Gail Woodland for comment and sign off. The leaflets will be going to the April AWMSG Steering Committee and then May AWMSG.

It was confirmed that once agreed, the content would be translated into Welsh then user tested.

A query was raised over the wording of 'poor posture' being a cause of back pain, and it was pointed out that the evidence is not there to support this and poor posture is difficult to define. It was agreed that this would be taken out. It was also agreed to change 'Try to have good posture...' to 'Try not to sit down for too long; get up and move around regularly'.

The inclusion of the Cardiff and Vale logo was raised and it was agreed that this would be changed to the NHS Wales logo.

A possible issue was raised around the use of oral rehydration sachets in the treatment of diarrhoea, and that the suggestion to buy them could result in patients going back to GPs to request them. It was agreed that the wording could be changed from 'you can' to 'you may'.

It was suggested that the pictures were useful and that a picture for oral thrush would be especially helpful. The difficulty in getting images was highlighted and Robyn Miles suggested that industry may be able to help with this.

Action: Gail Woodland to make amendments

Action: Robyn Miles to look into possible sources for images

7.3 Safe Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors

The Safe Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors was brought back to AWPAG by Richard Boldero, following comments made at AWMSG. AWMSG members had requested a hierarchy of risk be included in relation to medicines that can cause dyspepsia, gastrointestinal bleeding or ulceration. Further references had been sought to address this request and some re-working of the different sections undertaken.

AWPAG members supported the change and requested that text be added to refer to the newly included table earlier in the document.

Action: Richard Boldero to add wording 'For upper gastrointestinal bleeding risk ..., see Table 2'.

7.4 NPI Specifications 2018–2019

Claire Thomas presented the NPI Specifications 2018–2019 document to members for information. This document was previously referred to as the Drug Basket document but now includes information covering all the NPIs. Members were informed that thresholds will be calculated and added to the document.

There was a request from members to include more information on the biosimilars being included within the drug baskets, in addition to insulin glargine biosimilars.

Action: Richard Boldero to expand section on biosimilars to include list of biosimilars to be monitored.

7.5 Local Comparators 2018–2019

Claire Thomas presented the Local Comparators 2018–2019 for information.

The Chief Pharmacists had previously agreed that retired NPIs will be monitored as Local Comparators for two years, with data made available on SPIRA.

8.0 Choosing Wisely

Paul Myers gave a presentation on Making Decisions Together and the value of decisions about a patient's care being made jointly.

Discussion followed on how this could potentially reduce waste, impact the cancer pathway, and influence patient expectation that the clinician will make any treatment decision for them.

9.0 Yellow Card Initiatives

Louise Howard Baker presented the Yellow Card reporting initiatives which are being led by Janet Thomas in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Discussion followed regarding how to implement the capture of medication-related admissions across Wales. Clinical Coding Wales has been involved to ensure that these episodes are coded and this will be progressed through the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Quality and Safety Group.

Rob Bracchi felt that the initiative fits well with the AWMSG Five Year Strategy.

Kath Haines informed the group that Andrew Evans has set up a short life All Wales Medicines Safety group which is intended to advise Welsh Government on the scope of a programme designed to measure and reduce the burden of medicines-related harm in NHS Wales. Yellow Card initiatives will be a vital part of this.

10.0 Verbal updates

CEPP National Audit: Antipsychotics in Dementia

Claire Thomas gave an update on this document which had previously been brought to AWPAG in December. Members were informed that in January it had come to light that NICE would be updating their dementia guidance in June; in addition the Welsh Government's Dementia Strategy had not been launched, and the enquiry into the use of antipsychotics in care homes was ongoing. It was therefore decided that this piece of work would be put on hold until the NICE guidance is published.

Members highlighted that the Older Persons' Commissioner would be asking health boards about the work that is being done in this area.

Good Practice Rules for Switching/Substitution of Medicines

Louise Howard-Baker informed members that this project was in progress again. Currently comments are being sought from the Quality and Safety Group and the updated document would be brought to the June AWPAG meeting.

11.0 Feedback from Training Day – 17th January 2018

AWTTC members fed back on the comments received at the Training Day 2018.

A survey enabling users to feedback on AWMSG resources was suggested at the Training Day and it was confirmed that a survey had been produced and the link would be circulated to members.

Implementation of resources was raised and members suggested that Jamie Hayes could attend the next meeting to talk about his work on this.

Action: AWTTC to circulate survey feedback link to members

Action: AWTTC to request Jamie Hayes to talk about implementation at June meeting.

12.0 SHARE

Chrissie Collier provided a brief update on the progress with SHARE, AWTTTC's Online Community. She thanked members who had already signed up to the community and provided background for members not familiar with SHARE: that the forum had been requested by people attending the Best Practice Day in 2016 and launched at the Best Practice Day the following year, and was intended as a forum for NHS workers to be able to share and discuss examples of good practice.

Members were encouraged to sign up if they had not done so already, to 'follow' discussion threads of interest in order to be notified of activity, and to post examples of good practice initiatives e.g. those that have contributed to improved NPI trends.

It was agreed that members would be sent the link, along with background information and the user guide. It was also suggested that the link could be included in documents and correspondence to increase engagement.

Action: Chrissie Collier to send out link, information and user guide.

Action: AWTTTC to include link in documents and correspondence.

13.0 Best Practice Day 2018

The proposed sessions for the Best Practice Day 2018 were outlined and members were asked to comment on these and suggest any other topics for inclusion.

There was a suggestion for a possible speaker for dementia: Professor Sue Jordan – Aneurin Bevan.

A session on implementation was suggested, or that implementation could form part of the talk due to be delivered by Julia Terry on NICE.

Bev Woods suggested providing an alternative primary care perspective to the prison prescribing talk being given by Tom Cox (Betsi Cadwaladr) on reducing medicines of abuse. Caroline James, who works in a GP practice and in Cardiff prison, will be asked if she can link in with Tom's talk to highlight the difficulties in managing patients once they have left prison.

Sarah Isaac informed members that one of the cluster pharmacists in Hywel Dda had done a lot of work around medication review and deprescribing, and offered to contact them regarding giving a talk on this subject.

It was suggested that Mark Francis, Chair of All Wales Drug Contracting Committee, be approached as a possible speaker for "Drug shortages and Risk" as the Committee has developed an All Wales Protocol.

Action: AWTTTC to contact possible speakers

Action: Sarah Isaac to contact Cluster Pharmacist regarding talk on medication review and deprescribing.

Action: Bev Woods to contact Caroline James

14.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group

Bethan Tranter updated the group on the Chief Pharmacist Peer Group which is continuing to work on the six original efficiency and improvement work streams which were developed about a year ago, and earlier this year a seventh work stream was added to look at the use of automated drug storage in secondary care. A workshop has been organised in April with AWTTTC to ensure collaborative working and close alignment to AWMSG strategy.

15.0 Any other business

AWAGG

Nik Reid outlined the work of the All Wales Antimicrobial Guidance Group and informed members that the intention was to bring one primary care and one secondary care guideline to AWPAG per year. These would be taken through AWPAG, consultation and AWMSG in line with the AWTTTC project process.

NPI Subgroup

The NPI Subgroup meeting, scheduled for 16 May 2018, University Hospital Llandough, was discussed and volunteers were requested.

There was discussion about the use of Audit+ for future NPIs and members pointed out that there had been problems with 2017–2018 NPI module implementation and it had involved a lot of work for the health board. It was confirmed that the NPIs would continue to involve Audit+ and that discussions will take place to ensure that the previous issues will not arise again.

There was also a question about the use of Audit+ when EMIS is no longer in use, and what the implications may be. It was confirmed that assurances had been received from NWIS that this will not pose a problem.

NPI subgroup volunteers: Sue Jeffs, Bev Woods, Fiona Walker, Sarah Isaac, Lisa Adams, Sally Lewis, Alan Clatworthy, Laurence Gray or James Coulson.

GP Contract

It was confirmed that the 2018–2019 GP contract has not been published as yet.

16.0 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27 June 2018