ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held
Thursday, 25th October 2012 commencing 9.30 am
At the St Michael's Centre
10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair) GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Jane Barnard Lay member
Mr Alan Clatworthy Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Ms Clare Clement Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Ms Sian Evans Public Health Wales
Mr Stefan Fec Community Pharmacist
Mr Paul Fleming British Generic Manufacturers (non-voting)
Dr Rick Greville Director ABPI (non-voting)
Miss Sophie Harding Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Sarah Isaac Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Dr Susannah Jacks GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles ABPI Industry Representative
Mr Jonathan Simms Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Mark Walker GP, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Bev Woods Pharmacist, Cwm Taf

In attendance

Mr Jamie Hayes, Director WeMeReC / AWTTC
Mrs Karen Samuels, AWTTC
Mrs Ruth Lang, AWTTC
Mrs Susan Cervetto, AWTTC
Mrs Kate Jenkins, WAPSU / AWTTC
Miss Samantha Webster, Medical Writer, AWTTC
Miss Christine Collier, Medical Writer, AWTTC

Key of abbreviations

AWMSG All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSGSC All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTTC All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CASPA Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CEPP Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (formerly called incentive scheme)
1.0 Welcome & introduction
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members, in particular Ms Clare Clement who was deputising for Ms Fiona Walker, Pharmacist Member, Cardiff and Vale UHB.

2.0 Apologies:
Mrs Marnel Owen
Dr Ashok Rayani
Professor Roger Walker
Dr Sean Young

3.0 Declarations of interest
Mrs Robyn Miles declared an interest in respiratory medicines with respect to the CEPP audit structures.

4.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – July 2012
The minutes were checked for accuracy.

4.1 Matters arising
4.1.1 Antibiotic Audit
The Chair gave a brief update regarding the proposed 2013–2014 national antibiotic audit. Mr Jamie Hayes informed the group that Dr Sean Young had presented the audit to the Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum on Wednesday 24th October 2012. It was noted that there were difficulties in finalising the CEPP audit as the HPA/EMIS audit is yet to be finalised, and would probably not be available by Antibiotic Awareness Day 18th November. The CEPP audit was well-received at the Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum. Working group to convene in November and updated audit to be presented to AWPAG in January.

ACTION
AWTTC to arrange working group meeting

4.1.2 Common ailments scheme formulary
The Chair informed the group that a subgroup meeting will be held on 9 November 2012 to progress this work. It was agreed that consultation with industry would be appropriate prior to further consideration by AWPAG.

5.0 Update on papers endorsed by AWMSG
The Chair gave a verbal update of the following papers endorsed by AWMSG and available on the AWMSG website:
5.1 All Wales Prescribing Guidelines: Initiating contraception in primary care
There was a request for the published guidelines to be dated.
**ACTION**
AWTTC to update AWMSG document and website

5.2 All Wales paediatric steroid replacement card
Members requested clarification on how the card would be made available. It was agreed that it should only be available electronically via the AWMSG website in PDF format so as to prevent changes being made locally.
**ACTION**
AWTTC to protect online document to prevent changes being made before printing

5.3 All Wales Guidance – prescribing for erectile dysfunction
There were no further comments.

6.0 Feedback on papers presented to AWMSG on 17 October 2012
The Chair reported that the following papers had been endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting on 17 October 2012, subject to minor modifications:

- All Wales advice on the role of oral anticoagulants for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation
- Low molecular weight heparin prophylaxis in pregnancy

Members were informed that the documents were in the process of being updated and finalised in light of discussions at AWMSG. The papers will be available on the AWMSG website once the minutes of the meeting had been signed off by the Chair. The planned phase two of the oral anticoagulant document (relating to NICE TA for apixaban) was noted. The group did not anticipate the need to develop or extend national guidance for indications other than atrial fibrillation.

The Cardiff stroke risk assessment document was discussed and the need for an All Wales version was raised. Mrs Louise Howard-Baker and Mr Alan Clatworthy agreed to take this forward. The monitoring of prescribing and ADRs was considered.
**ACTION**
AWTTC to approach Alison Thomas and Yellow Card lead
LH-B/AC to develop All Wales risk assessment chart for January AWPAG

Members discussed the implementation of AWMSG guidance and suggestions were sought on how it should be disseminated to the service. The use of WeMeReC email list directly to GPs was supported. It was agreed to consider implementation (and barriers to implementation) of recently published AWMSG/AWPAG documents at the January AWPAG meeting, with completion of a proforma prior to the meeting by members/health boards to identify action taken locally.
**ACTION**
AWTTC to contact health boards to obtain information on uptake of guidance
AWPAG January 2013 agenda item – review of implementation

7.0 National Prescribing Indicators 2013–2014
The Chair welcomed Mrs Kate Jenkins and thanked WAPSU for the comprehensive supporting documents and subgroup members for their detailed considerations. Kate Jenkins provided the background to the National Prescribing Indicators for 2013–2014 and highlighted issues raised at the subgroup meeting. The group then discussed each of the indicators as proposed in the documentation, reviewing the subgroup recommendations, details of the text and supporting materials.
8.0 Local comparators 2013–2014
Mrs Kate Jenkins presented the proposed local comparators for 2013–2014. All of the comparators presented were discussed and agreed by the group with some minor amendments.

ACTION
WAPSU to update document and arrange industry consultation before January AWPAG meeting

9.0 CEPP/QOF responses 2012–2013
The group discussed the CEPP audits being undertaken within NHS Wales and use of the AWMSG National Audits. Health board notification prior to the 2012 audit release was recognised, but earlier notification is needed. It was agreed that further discussion would be scheduled for the next AWPAG meeting in January 2013, including exploration of links with undergraduates, GP registrars and F1/F2 doctors.

ACTION
Audit implementation and 2013–2014 CEPP summary document to AWPAG Jan 2013

10.0 Update to WHC (2003) 73 – Roles and Structure of Prescribing Committees
Mrs Karen Samuels presented a proposal to update the WHC (2003) 73, setting out the roles and structures of prescribing committees. Guidance available and under development from national agencies was noted and the group agreed that an update is required. Members suggested further consultation would be required with members of the AWPAG Therapeutics Working Group and the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee. It was suggested that AWTTC undertake a preliminary update of the document, which would be progressed with these groups and with reference to NICE and Wales Audit Office work when available.

ACTION
JS/KS to seek the views of the Chief Pharmacists on 20 November 2012
AWTTC to undertake preliminary update and seek views of the AWPAG Therapeutics Working Group

11.0 Gluten-free prescribing – update
The Chair welcomed the author, Julie Nedin, and invited her to present the updated guidelines for prescribing gluten-free products. This was discussed at length and the formulary updates were supported. Amendments were suggested to the text. Self care and sign-posting of supermarket products was highlighted. JN agreed to update the document with Dr Susanna Jacks in light of the discussion and a two-week consultation undertaken. If consultation comments are uncontroversial, members to agree the final document electronically prior to AWMSG.

ACTION
AWTTC to liaise with JN and SJ on consultation document

12.0 28-day prescribing consultation responses
The group discussed the consultation responses received; in particular the comments from GPC Wales regarding the use of targets, the synchronisation by pharmacies of tablet quantities and the need to encourage once-monthly submissions for repeat prescriptions; the recommendation for pharmacies to synchronise tablet quantities was not considered by the group to be practical at this stage but once-monthly ordering was promoted. There is no intention to make the 28-day basket of medicines an AWMSG
National Prescribing Indicator. The role of repeat dispensing (batch prescribing) was discussed in detail. Amendments to the paper were recommended and agreed.

**ACTION**

AWTTC to liaise with lead to make amendments
Members to review updated document electronically, prior to AWMSG

13.0 DoH Consultation - UK 5 Yr Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy & Action Plan
Chair asked members to submit responses to this consultation via AWTTC.

14.0 NEWT guidelines for administration of medication to patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties
Louise Howard-Baker provided the background and demonstration of the electronic guidelines and asked that members raise awareness of this online resource. It was noted that the website is updated continually and options for access were discussed.

15.0 AWPAG Therapeutics Working Group (previously Interface Pharmacists Group)
There were no points of note from this group.

16.0 Medicines Management Programme Board meeting
There were no points of note from this group.

17.0 All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee
There were no points of note from this group.

18.0 GMC report – investigating prescribing errors in general practice
The Chair sought comment from the group. Factors contributing to errors included training, distractions and a failure to fully utilise existing IT solutions for safer prescribing. The report made a number of recommendations for improving the safety of prescribing including ‘promoting the effective use of clinical computer systems for safe prescribing’. Members considered that communication could be improved between IT development and AWPAG and proposed inviting a representative to a future meeting. Members to identify unresolved issues. It was agreed that a link to the full report should be placed on the AWMSG website to enable wider dissemination within NHS Wales.

**ACTION**

AWTTC to update AWMSG website
AWTTC to consider AWPAG agenda item

19.0 Call for new members
Mrs Ruth Lang drew members’ attention to the ‘Call for new AWMSG and subgroup members’ and asked the group to circulate this amongst their colleagues. It was noted that nominations would also be sought via Medicines and Therapeutics Committees. Any nominations should be made to AWTTC by 30 November 2012.

20.0 Any other business
There being no further business, the meeting closed.

**The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 17 January 2013 at St Michaels Centre, Abergavenny**