ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held Thursday, 26th
April 2012 at 10.00 am
At the St Michael’s Centre
10a Pen Y Pound, Abergavenny, NP7 5UD

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair) GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Nuala Brennan Public Health Wales
Mr Alan Clatworthy Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Mr Stefan Fec Community Pharmacist
Miss Sophie Harding Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Dr Susannah Jacks GP, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Sue Jeffs Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles ABPI Industry Representative
Mrs Marnel Owen Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Mrs Fiona Walker Pharmacist, Cardiff & Vale
Dr Mark Walker GP, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Janette Wilkins ABPI Industry Representative (non-voting)
Mrs Bev Woods Pharmacist, Cwm Taf
Dr Sean Young GP, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg

In attendance

Mrs Susan Cervetto, Senior Pharmacist, AWTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes, Director WeMeReC & AWTTC
Mrs Kate Jenkins, Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
Mrs Karen Samuels, Programme Director, 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)
CPW Community Pharmacy Wales
DH Department of Health
GP General Practitioner
MHRA Medicines Health and Regulatory Authority
MMPB Medicines Management Programme Board
NMG New Medicines Group
NICE National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NSAIDs Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
1.0 Welcome & introduction
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Mrs Bev Woods, Pharmacist representing Cwm Taf LHB and Mr Alan Clatworthy, Pharmacist representing Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB. She informed the meeting that Mr Stuart Evans, representing Healthcare professionals eligible to prescribe, had resigned as a member of AWPAG. She also informed the meeting that Mrs Jane Barnard, Lay member, was currently unwell and wished her a speedy recovery on behalf of all members.

2.0 Apologies:
Professor Roger Walker
Mrs Jane Barnard
Mr Paul Fleming
Mr Rick Greville
Mrs Sarah Isaac
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty
Mr Jonathan Simms
Dr Mark Smithies
Dr Ashok Rayani

3.0 Declarations of interest
Mrs Robyn Miles declared an interest in relation to the subgroup agenda (item 26).

4.0 Chairs report
The Chair reported that she had received a nomination for the position of AWPAG Vice-Chair, Mrs Louise Howard Baker. Mrs Howard Baker accepted the nomination and this will now be taken to AWMSG Steering Committee for approval. Members were reminded of the forthcoming antimicrobial stewardship forum on 3 May and the AWTTC meeting on 24 May. The Chair thanked members for their responses to the various documents between the meetings.
Action
Nomination to be presented to AWMSG Steering Committee on 31st May 2012

5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – January 2012
The minutes were checked for accuracy and the following was highlighted:

Page 7, item 23.0 Dr Susanna Jacks informed the meeting that she was not part of the working group.
Action
Secretariat to amend minutes on AWTTC website

Matters arising not on the agenda:
Mrs Nuala Brennan asked for an update regarding the publication of the Analgesics Patient Information Leaflet. The Chair informed the group that the progress of the document had been pursued with the media company. It was agreed that the word version would be made available on the AWMSG website if the media version was not available in 2 weeks.
Action
AWTTTC to follow up with media again and place on website
6.0 Papers presented to AWMSG on 21st March 2012
The Chair reported that the following papers had been supported by AWMSG at their meeting in March 2011:

6.1 CEPP National Audit: Patient safety – lithium prescribing
Mrs Fiona Walker gave a brief update and informed the meeting that the recommendation to adopt as a national audit had been accepted by AWMSG.

6.2 CEPP National Audit: - Towards more appropriate management of depression in a primary care setting
Dr Sean Young gave a brief update and informed members that, following some minor amendments the audit will be adopted as a national audit following sign off by the Chairman of AWMSG. The Chair then asked representatives from those LHBs present for an update on audits included in 2012/13 schemes. Several regions are planning on including the repeat prescribing audit.
The group discussed the collation of information on audits promoted by health boards 2012/13. It was agreed that AWTTC would facilitate this and bring the results to the next meeting.

Action
Health Boards to submit 2012/13 CEPP structures and medicines management audit topics to AWTTC once finalised. AWTTC to collate June 2012

6.3 Guidance on prescribing for erectile dysfunction
The Chair informed the meeting that 2 of the 3 recommendations had been accepted by AWMSG. Clarification of the terminology for the third recommendation had been requested.

Action
AWPAG to review the wording outside of the meeting

7.0 Paediatric steroid card
The Chair invited Dr Rebekah Pryce, Paediatric Consultant, Singleton Hospital to present the proposal for a Paediatric Steroid Card for patients receiving replacement therapy. Following a short presentation the group discussed which stakeholders should be considered for consultation and user testing. Dr Pryce informed the meeting that the Wales Ambulance Service Trust, The Brecon Group and the Wales Endocrine and Diabetes Society had already been consulted during the development of the card.
The group discussed the content of the card and it was recommended that the title be changed to reflect the fact that it is for use by patients receiving replacement therapy rather than patients on high dose inhaled steroids. Other minor amendments were highlighted and Dr Pryce agreed to take these forward. A number of members agreed to form a Task & Finish group.

Action
Task & Finish group (LHB, MO, JW and RM) to assist in finalising the consultation and background information.
Updated paper to be sent for consultation, ready for AWPAG July 2012

8.0 CEPP National Audit- Repeat prescribing Audit
Dr Susanna Jacks presented the updated audit designed to improve the quality of repeat prescribing policies and systems. The paper was discussed in detail, in particular it was agreed to retain the method of data collection in GP practices. Minor amendments were agreed.

Action
Amended paper to AWMSG on 20th June 2012
9.0 Anticoagulation monitoring - Warfarin  
The Chair presented the updated paper promoting the safe and effective monitoring of warfarin therapy in Wales. The paper had been sent for consultation and changes made where applicable. Members reviewed the consultation responses and discussed the associated work streams.  
**Action**  
**Paper to AWMSG on 20th June 2012**

10.0 MDS Standards  
Dr Susanna Jacks gave a brief update to the paper and following discussion by the group, minor amendments were made. The multiprofessional background to the document was noted. It was suggested that this paper could be used as the basis for a multi-disciplinary audit. Mr Stefan Fec informed the group that a template for an assessment form was available on the PCC website @http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/98.php  
**Action**  
**Amended paper to AWMSG on 20th June 2012**

11.0 CEPP – Local comparators  
The Chair invited Mrs Kate Jenkins to present an updated paper for local comparators which will be available for both local and national comparative measurement as necessary in accordance with local prioritisation. The Chair reiterated that these are local comparators and should not be confused with the national indicators. It was noted that supporting educational materials will be available for the Yellow card reporting comparator.  
**Action**  
**WAPSU to update comparator paper and circulate to health board Chief Pharmacists & Medicines and Therapeutics Committees**

12.0 Promoting rational contraceptive prescribing  
The Chair thanked Mrs Nuala Brennan for her coordination of this work and invited her to present the updated prescribing guidelines for initiating contraception in primary care and the associated local comparators. Minor amendments were agreed to the flow chart and the local comparator agreed.  
**Action**  
**AWTTTC to send word formatted document to NB to make amendments**  
**Paper to be circulated electronically for comment by AWPAG members prior to AWMSG 18th July 2012**

13.0 Drug monitoring and shared care  
Dr Sean Young outlined how current shared care arrangements have enabled good progress on the development of safer prescribing practices but that the focus has been on ensuring a good understanding of monitoring requirements, so that they may be carried out to a high standard. The focus on monitoring has created new issues relating to medicines management, particularly for those patients who, for various reasons, are harder to engage in the process. Processes now need to be reviewed to focus on good practice relating to the management of medication and the patient, rather than purely focusing on adherence to monitoring. The AWMSG list of medicines which require clear commissioning arrangements was also briefly considered.  
**Action**  
**To be progressed via the AWPAG therapeutics working group (formerly, Interface Pharmacist Group)**

14.0 28 Day prescribing  
The Chair informed the meeting that AWPAG have been requested by Welsh Government, via AWMSG, to consider the rationale behind 28 day prescribing. Mr Stefan Fec informed the meeting of work carried out as part of the Community Pharmacy Wales Waste Medicines project in 2010. A task and finish group was identified to take the work forward agreed to be involved.  
**Action**  
**AWTTTC to support literature search**  
**Task & Finish group (SJ, SF, LHB and MW) to take the work forward**  
**Draft paper to be presented to AWPAG July 2012**
15.0 Access Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin
Mrs Fiona Walker informed the group that the NHS Wales E Library subscription to Clinical Evidence and the Drugs and Therapeutic Bulletin is due to end on March 31 2012 and that due to low usage figures, it is proposed that this contract is not renewed to allow other ‘Point of Care’ tools to be considered. There were concerns about the level of consultation by HOWIS regarding the cancellation of the contract. The group agreed that this was an important publication and that many prescribers would not have been aware of the on-line resource. AWPAG recommend its reinstatement.

**Action**
- Chair to submit a request for reinstatement via AWTTC

16.0 Dabigatran prescribing in Wales
The Chair informed the meeting that AWPAG have been asked to consider whether national guidance on the prescribing of dabigatran should be produced. The group acknowledged that several health boards have already developed comprehensive local guidance. The group agreed that there is a need for national guidance to reduce the risk of regional variation in availability. Particular consideration should be given to the time in therapeutic range and responsibility for the initiation of treatment. The group recommended that stroke, haematology and cardiovascular groups be consulted.

**Action**
- AC, L H-B, MW agreed to be involved.

**Draft paper to be presented to AWPAG July 2012**

17.0 Update on statin template
Mrs Sue Cervetto informed the meeting that the statin template had originally been removed from the AWMSG website to update it into a lipid therapy guideline, however NICE are currently reviewing their lipid therapy guidance and that outcome is awaited. The updated template and consultation responses were considered. Template is to be finalised in light of comments.

**Action**
- To be re published on AWMSG Website

18.0 National Indicators – Summary for prescribers
The Chair presented a summary document which could be used to inform all NHS Wales prescribers of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) national prescribing indicators for 2012/13. It includes brief supporting information and links for each indicator. The document was supported for dissemination to all prescribers in primary care and hospital.

**Action**
- AWTTC to disseminate through health board Chief Pharmacists and Medicines and Therapeutic Committees

19.0 PPI Educational Pack
The PPI Educational Pack was sent to members prior to the meeting for comment. The pack was not discussed in detail and members were asked to submit any further comments to AWTTC. The provision of lifestyle advice was discussed. A key point summary was suggested and Dr Sean Young agreed to support WAPSU with this.

**Action**
- SY to liaise with WAPSU to provide key point summary

**Consideration of future work programme items:**

20.0 CEPP Audit 2013/14 – National Indicators
The Chair sought volunteers to re-form the sub-group to consider the National Prescribing Indicators for 2013/14. Dr Sue Jeffs, Stefan Fec and Dr Sean Young agreed to join the group.

**Action**
- AWTTC to set date for meeting
21.0 CEPP Audit 2013/14 – Antibiotics
The Chair presented a paper proposing the development of an antibiotic audit for 2013/14. This recommendation follows from a meeting between the Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum and AWTTC and subsequent presentation to DARHAI. Dr Young outlined a practice pilot of a section of the audit which identified significant variation between clinicians. The proposal was discussed briefly and agreed. It was noted that this does not preclude the development of other audits if these are forthcoming.
Action
Antimicrobial audit to be progressed by SY/TL

22.0 Minor Ailments Formulary
The Chair informed the meeting that AWPAG have been requested by Welsh Government, via AWMSG, to produce an All Wales Formulary for minor ailments. She asked for volunteers to take this project forward and Mrs Nuala Brennan, Mr Stefan Fec and Dr Susanna Jacks provisionally agreed to develop the work. It was agreed to email the full scope and project proposal to members and once this has been considered any other members wishing to volunteer to contribute to the project should notify the Chair.
Action
Chair to confirm full scope of work and forward to members for consideration

23.0 Formulary and Interface Pharmacists
The Chair informed the meeting that the Formulary and Interface Pharmacists Group had reconvened under the new title “AWPAG Therapeutics Working Group” and they had held their first meeting on 20th April 2012.

24.0 National Medicines Management Board
There was no representation from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee and no issues of note.

25.0 All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee
There was no representation from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee. It was agreed to share the meeting notes of the group with the committee.

26.0 Any other business
There being no further business the meeting closed at 16.05pm

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 19th July 2012 at the St Michaels Centre, Abergavenny