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| Enclosure No: | 7/AWMSG/0609 |
| Agenda Item No: | 11 – Update on AWPAG |
| Author: | All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group |
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

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| 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 |
| Mrs Delyth Simons | Pharmacist Mid & West Wales |
| Mr Jonathan Simms | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Mrs Fiona Walker | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Dr David Webb | Secondary Care Consultant |

In attendance

Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Dave Hopkins (Health Solutions Wales)

Key of abbreviations

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| 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 |

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| 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. Members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

Mr Stuart Evans, Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Debbie Davies, Healthcare professions eligible to prescribe
Mr Ken Nazareth, Pharmacist South East Wales
Dr Adam Southan, GP South West Wales
Mrs Judith Vincent, Pharmacist SW Wales
Miss Nuala Brennan, NPHS
Mr John Terry, Chief Pharmacist
Dr Martin Duerden, GP North Wales

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 resignations had been received from Dr Ashok Rayani and Dr Stephen Lennox. WMP are in the process of contacting the deputy consultant members to ascertain whether they wish to take up the main member post. The Chair confirmed that the AWMSG Steering Committee had supported the nomination that Dr Adam Southan as GP member (previously deputy member). Members were informed that membership of AWPAG would shortly be reviewed.

The Chair confirmed that the Expert Panel Report, Chaired by Professor Philip Routledge, in relation to access to new cancer medicines had formally been accepted by the Minister for Health and Social Services in February.

The Chair informed members of a change in format for the next AWPAG meeting. It was reported that the AWMSG Steering Committee had proposed that the July meeting would take a different format when members of NHSIF would be invited to work collaboratively with AWPAG on areas of mutual interest.

Members were informed that a representative of NPSA would also be invited to attend.

ACTION - WMP to invite representative

5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

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

Matters arising:

BNF Key Messages

The AWMSG Steering Group have advised that liaison with dental practitioners should be via Mr Jamie Hayes of WeMeReC who has established links. The Chair confirmed that the review of the BNF Infections chapter key messages had been endorsed by AWMSG in February 2009 subject to the inclusion of a review date and is available on the AWMSG website.

Links with Primary Care Quality & Information Service (PCQIS)

The Chair informed members that PCQF are currently working on an audit related to the AWPAG endocrine key message document and this should be available soon on the NPHS website

Prescribing Strategy Recommendation 19 *Working with clinical networks and specialist groups to ensure that national clinical pathways and guidance include cost effective and evidence based prescribing.*

Following discussion at the January AWPAG meeting, the issues had been raised with the Welsh Assembly Government representative at the AWMSG Steering Committee and subsequently with the Senior Medical Officer DPHHP-HPG. Discussions included therapeutics input into the GMS enhanced service specifications. WAG are currently reviewing specialist advisory structures.

Diabetes consensus guidelines

The Chair confirmed that outstanding issues relating to the interpretation of NICE and the consensus guidelines, notably the statin and HbA1C target, had been raised with Helen Husband at Welsh Assembly Government. The response received from WAG clarified that NICE guidance supersedes the Consensus guidelines. WAG has requested AWPAG/AWMSG representation on the Consensus Group.

Mrs Fiona Walker was nominated and agreed to represent AWPAG/AWMSG and will contact Helen Husband.

6. National thromboprophylaxis guidance update

The Chair provided background: The interface pharmacists had expressed concern about increased prescribing of low molecular weight heparin in primary care, safety issues and its place in therapy. The Wales Thromboprophylaxis Committee are addressing similar issues and a draft consultation document is imminent. It was noted that Mr Stuart Evans had been unable to attend the meeting and provide feedback from the Group. WMP confirmed that a request had recently been sought from Dr Hamsaraj Shetty, AWMSG's representative on the Thromboprophylaxis Group, but a response had not yet been received. Dr Lewis had recently discussed the issue with Dr Noble and it was considered unlikely that the National consultation would cover issues relating to primary care prescribing or use of LMWH in patients who have cancer. Regional developments addressing the issue were noted. Guidance regarding use of LMWH for undercoagulated primary care patients on warfarin was discussed.

The HoPMM representatives agreed to liaise with GPs to ascertain the current pattern prescribing and monitoring of LWMH across Wales, over the last 6 months. Dr Mark Daniels, Dr Susanna Jacks, Mrs Delyth Simons, Mrs Fiona Walker and Mr Bill Duffield agreed to liaise outside of the meeting with regard to this issue.

ACTION

**WD to prepare Excel spreadsheet for circulation to GP and pharmacist members
Summary paper to be discussed AWPAG July - Lead: Bill Duffield**

7. Special formulations

The Chair thanked Mr Jonathan Simms for Enclosure 2 which progressed the issues related to the prescribing of special formulations previously raised at AWPAG and AWMSG. Mr Simms provided the background to the agenda item. Suggestions were invited on key ideas and resources to support the outlined proposals. Members were informed that following recent discussions at AWMSG a working group had been established by Mr Dave Roberts, AWMSG Chief Pharmacist representative.

Options outlined in Encl 2 were discussed and the following further considerations noted

- To increase ability to capture relevant data. Mr Dave Hopkins confirmed that Health Solutions Wales are currently pursuing the flagging of specials and unspecified prescriptions and noted recommendations from HoPMMs to improve functionality
- Regular reporting to LHBs via Health Solutions Wales
- Drive work to ensure Scriptswitch develop this area of their software
- Need to flag up with non-Scriptswitch software
- Provide template for use at local level for GPs to write to pharmacists requesting feedback on inadvertent prescribing of unlicensed specials
- Develop an educational package via links with WeMeReC

It was agreed to develop outstanding key themes and recommendations, ideally for July AWPAG prior to August AWMSG. WMP representatives agreed to seek an update from Dave Roberts and will then liaise with Jon Simms and TL regarding the need for Task and Finish group.

ACTION

**WMP to seek update from working group
Paper outlining recommendations to AWPAG/ AWMSG – Lead: Jon Simms**

8. Incentivising secondary care

The Chair provided the background and invited Dr David Webb to address the Group. Dr Webb expressed thanks to WMP preparing a comprehensive summary of previous papers. The views of Mr John Terry and the Chief pharmacists were conveyed to the Group. Members agreed there would be a need to choose over-arching issues as a potential driver for incentivising, particularly in light of the current reorganisation. Suggestions included

- Red drugs
- Hypnotics
- Percentage of medicines prescribed outside the formulary
- Following NICE guidance for prescribing statins
- Proton pump inhibitor

It was agreed to look at the Medusa prescribing data for proton pump inhibitor use and develop a working example, addressing some of the considerations in Encl 3. Members were asked to volunteer and the following members were nominated:

Louise Howard-Baker / John Terry / Dave Webb / Stuart Evans

ACTION

Subgroup to update AWPAG July 09 - Lead: Dr David Webb

9. Antiplatelet template – update

The Chairman provided the background and informed members that the document had been circulated widely for comment. A suggestion for inclusion of a summary page had been received and was agreed. More time for response had been requested from Cardiac networks to allow for further consultation. It was agreed that the deadline for comments could be extended and members would finalise the paper electronically.

ACTION

WMP to email comments received with the latest version of the template

Members to agree final version electronically prior to consideration by AWMSG

10. Local comparators

The Chair tabled the list of local comparators identified currently. AWMSG had requested that inappropriate generics remain a local comparator as it had been removed from the list of National indicators. A suggestion was made that the inappropriate generic basket should be updated, as per BNF. There was agreement that AWPAG should continue to monitor discontinued national indicators, as local comparators.

11. National indicators 2010-2011

The Chair invited Mr Jonathan Simms to provide an update in relation to the National Indicators. Mr Simms conveyed the working group's concern over the validation of the indicators in light of the withdrawal of funding for WAPSU. Mr Simms confirmed that the Indicator Working Group would be meeting in May and invited members to comment on the draft paper.

Target setting: It was agreed that data from the December quarter should be used as a predictive target but this would be finalised when the March quarter data becomes available.

It was suggested that members of NHSIF could be invited to input into the document at the next meeting in July.

Generic Prescribing

The group discussed whether the generic prescribing indicator had served its purpose and should be monitored as a local comparator rather than national indicator. It was noted that there remain cost implications. HoPMMs to liaise with HSW regarding continued sources of non-generic prescribing to establish whether there are alternative methods of addressing the issue.

Chiral medicines

Mr Simms informed members that it had become apparent that this indicator may disadvantage practices that preferentially prescribe larger quantities of lansoprazole, loratidine or fluoxetine than omeprazole, cetirizine or citalopram as the denominator only cover the parent drugs and not equally valid first line choices. Some work needs to be undertaken to determine whether an alternative prescribing measure could be used e.g.

items per 1000PU. It was agreed that two measures for reporting the indicator be established.

Angiotensin receptor blockers

HoPMMS expressed concern over the ability to reach target with an elderly population.

Antimicrobial prescribing

Mr Simms confirmed liaison with the Antimicrobial Working Group chaired by Dr Karen Fitzgerald (NPHS AWMSG representative).

Medicines Reconciliation

Mr Simms asked whether this should be included in the AWMSG national indicators and it was agreed to seek advice from the Welsh Assembly Government representative at the AWMSG Steering Committee.

Other suggestions included the use of an indicator monitoring the use of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) focusing on the issue of treatment to maintenance doses. There were no issues highlighted in relation to hypnotics and anxiolytics or NSAID indicators.

Yellow card reports as a National Indicator has been raised on a number of occasions. Members confirmed that it had been considered but that a meaningful and workable measure had not been identified. Chair to discuss with WMP.

ACTION

HoPMMS to liaise with HSW regarding continued sources of non-generic prescribing

Chair to feedback to AWMSG Steering Committee

- **Potential agenda item for shared meeting with NHSIF July 09**
- **Medicines Reconciliation indicator to next AWMSG Steering Committee and raise issue of potential**
- **Yellow Card reporting indicator**

12. National prescribing incentive scheme audit

Anticoagulation audit

The Chair confirmed that the current anticoagulation audit template would remain available as the National Audit for 2009/10 for local adoption and adaptation. Members were informed that glitches in the codes of Audit Plus had been relayed to Mr Simon Scourfield. Differences in the collation of information were highlighted. The implications for national collation and interpretation of audit was discussed. The group decided that no further guidance would be needed in relation to its interpretation.

ACTION

Chair to pass on reservations in relation to collation of data to the AWMSG Steering Committee

The Chair invited audit topics for April 2010 and the following suggestions were noted:

- Implementation of NICE and AWMSG technology appraisal guidance
- Amiodarone
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Dementia and antipsychotic medicines in the elderly

Dr Jacks outlined experience of Monmouthshire GPs who had undertaken the National Prescribing Centre NSAID audit. There was general support for the NSAID audit and suggestion that this could be extended to secondary care within A&E and Out-patients.

ACTION

Chair to raise NSAID prescribing at next Interface Pharmacists meeting
Chair to Link with PCQIS regarding development of the National Prescribing Centre audit

13. Implementing NICE / AWMSG guidance

The Chair invited comment in relation to this project which had been identified as a potential item for joint working with the NHSIF. Members discussed current practice and resources used within NHS Wales.

ACTION

Identified as potential joint project with NHSIF; to be discussed by AWMSG Steering Committee

Mr Bill Duffield and Louise Howard-Baker left the meeting.

14. Subcutaneous Methotrexate – AWMSG paper and shared care protocol

The Chair invited comments in relation to the AWMSG shared care template for the prescribing of subcutaneous methotrexate and the updated terminology.

Amendment was advised to point 4 from '*Practices*' to '*Primary health care teams and district nurses*' are not encouraged to administer subcutaneous methotrexate.

There was discussion over the shared care terminology. It was considered that the document didn't provide the clarity intended and it was therefore agreed to withdraw it from AWMSG discussion the following day.

ACTION

Shared care terminology to be considered by interface pharmacists group

15. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists meeting

The Chair drew members' attention to the minutes of the interface pharmacists meeting held on Friday, 16th January 2009.

16. NHSIF draft minutes of January 2009 meeting

The Chair drew members' attention to the NHSIF draft minutes of the January 2009 meeting.

17. Draft minutes AWMSG meeting February 2009

The Chair drew members' attention to the AWMSG draft minutes of the meeting held in February 2009.

18. Any other business - Possible flu pandemic

It was reported that NPHS and LHBs at a local level are addressing this issue. All practices have been asked to establish contingency plans.

Date and time of future meetings:

Monday, 6th July 2009 to be held at The Hill Education and Conference Centre in Abergavenny commencing 10.45 am

Wednesday, 21st October 2009 (venue to be confirmed)