

Enclosure No:	5/AWMSG/1209
Agenda Item No:	9 – Update on AWPAG
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 21st OCTOBER 2009 COMMENCING 10.45 AM AT THE ST MICHAEL'S CENTRE, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 5UD

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP South East Wales
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker	Pharmacist North Wales
Dr Robert Bracchi	GP South Wales
Miss Nuala Brennan	NPHS representative
Mr Bill Duffield	Pharmacist North Wales
Mr Stuart Evans	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales
Mrs Kath Hier	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Dr Jonathan Jones	GP North Wales
Mr Ken Nazareth	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist South East Wales
Mr John Terry	Chief Pharmacist – South West Wales
Mrs Judith Vincent	Pharmacist South West Wales
Dr David Webb	Secondary Care Consultant

In attendance

Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership / WeMeReC)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mr Dave Hopkins (Health Solutions Wales)
Mr Jeremy Felvus (NHSIF member)
Dr Richard Greville (NHSIF member)
Ms Katie Panton (NHSIF member)

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. The Chair confirmed that members from NHSIF had been invited to input into the discussions of the morning session. The Chair confirmed that Dr Simon Noble and Dr Rachel Rayment would also be attending to input into discussions relating to the National Thromboprophylaxis Guidance update and Low Molecular Weight Heparin consultation.

2. **Apologies**

Dr Hamsaraj Shetty, Secondary Care Consultant – South East Wales
Dr Susanna Jacks, GP South Wales

Not in attendance

Dr Martin Duerden
Dr Adam Southan
Mrs Delyth Simons

3. **Declarations of interest**

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. Mr Jeremy Felvus and Mrs Katy Panton confirmed an interest in agenda item 7 - a product manufactured by Pfizer is mentioned in the documentation (Enclosure 3).

4. **Chair's report**

The Chair drew members' attention to two agenda items considered by AWMSG at their meeting in October – an update from Informing Healthcare (ICH) in relation to electronic recording of prescribing, and a paper from Health Solutions Wales (HSW) in relation to the development of a Welsh Formulary System. The Chair reported that Dr Susanna Jacks had represented AWPAG at a meeting in relation to medicines wastage. Members were informed that representatives of WMP had been invited to the Welsh Assembly Government's Dragons Den to put forward 'spend to save' initiatives. It was confirmed that the bid for funding of four specific projects had been successful.

5. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and no changes were made. Matters arising:

Antiplatelet template

The Chair confirmed that the template for prescribing antiplatelet therapy had been endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting in August and conveyed the thanks of the AWMSG Chairman to the Group.

National indicators 2010-2011

The Chair confirmed that the national prescribing indicators for 2010-2011 presented by Mr Simms to AWMSG in August had been endorsed. The paper had subsequently been provided to Health Solutions Wales and Welsh Assembly Government. It was agreed that the chiral medicine indicator would be reviewed by the working group when NICE clinical guidance became available and a paper brought to AWPAG January meeting.

ACTION

Agenda item January AWPAG meeting - J Simms (Working Group Chair)

Vascular Project Group

The Chair confirmed that AWMSG/AWPAG had been assured of the opportunity to comment on the draft paper but no documentation had been received to date from Welsh Assembly government.

ACTION

Chair to seek update from Welsh Assembly Government

Special formulations

Mr Jonathan Simms advised members on work currently being undertaken by the Department of Health, Royal Pharmaceutical Society and National Prescribing Centre.

ACTION

WMP/J Simms to seek update on work currently undertaken

National thromboprophylaxis guidance update

Dr Simon Noble, Chair of the Thromboprophylaxis Working Group provided an update on the guidance. Dr Noble acknowledged the contributions of members and confirmed that dissemination of the final document is anticipated in December via the 1000 Lives meeting.

Incentivising secondary care

Members expressed the view that this project would be difficult to develop given existing cost pressure initiatives and the current structural changes within NHS Wales. However the implications of delayed discharge were discussed and Mr John Terry offered to seek the advice of the Chief Pharmacists with regard to reducing delays in patients being discharged on dosette boxes. *See agenda item 14.*

6. Improving safety in relation to prescribing amiodarone for 'historical' patients

The Chair provided the background to the agenda item and confirmed that e-mail contact with cardiac networks had been supportive of addressing the issue.

Mrs Louise Howard Baker referred members to guidance progressed by Wrexham Local Health Board following the death of a patient in North Wales due to pulmonary fibrosis. The guidance outlines the background, process and action plan for each patient. The

work was progressed with the support of the North Wales Cardiac Network. Mrs Howard-Baker reported a considerable drop in the prescribing of amiodarone since review had been implemented and will be reporting the final figures to the 1000 Lives Campaign.

Members noted that the volume of amiodarone prescribing in Wales remains significant and suggested that WeMeReC maps could be instructive. Concern was also expressed regarding new initiations. The correlation between primary and secondary care prescribing of amiodarone on a national basis was discussed and Mr Dave Hopkins agreed to provide AWPAG with the statistics. It was noted the national shared care template for prescribing amiodarone is available on the AWMSG website.

Members agreed there is a need to work with the cardiologists to raise awareness and uptake of guidance. The Chair requested members forward comments on the detail of the documents to Mrs Howard Baker and closed the discussion by confirming the support of AWPAG to promote this initiative.

ACTION

Chair to seek support for developing the initiative via AWMSG Steering Committee of Chairman of Cardiac Network (Dr Philip Thomas) and Chair of AWMSG (Professor Philip Routledge)

Mrs Howard-Baker to establish support for the documentation via cardiac networks

HSW to provide statistics in relation to primary and secondary care prescribing on a national basis

7. Proposal on the prescribing of Low molecular weight heparins (LMWH)

The Chair welcomed Dr Rachel Rayment, Consultant Haematologist at the University Hospital of Wales and Dr Simon Noble, Palliative Care Consultant at Royal Gwent Hospital.

The Chair provided the background and referred members to the draft consultation document and recommendations. The interface pharmacists group, with support from Welsh Medicines Partnership, had considered the issues of monitoring and formally assessed the suitability of primary care prescribing of LMWH, using the AWMSG criteria. Mr Dawson, Dr Rayment and Dr Simon Noble had provided comment on the proposals prior to the meeting. Members were invited to comment on the recommendations and stakeholder questions which would form the basis of a consultation document. It was agreed that the consultation would involve Local Medical Committees, consultants in obstetrics and gynaecology, cancer networks and haematologists.

The group supported recommendations 1-4. There was no consensus on recommendation 5 and it was agreed to issue an open question for this on the stakeholder response form. It was agreed to include a clause to support GP prescribing (where contrary to the recommendation) where there is mutual agreement with a specialist that this is more appropriate for an individual patient. The group was advised of a regional review of LMWH prescribing which illustrated practical issues such as a lack of patients' recorded pre-treatment weight. The need for education to support the initiative was highlighted.

The Chair agreed to update the document in light of the discussion. It was noted that NICE guidance is expected to be published in January 2010. The timelines were discussed with a view to AWMSG December or March 2010 depending on the

consultation responses.

ACTION

Chair to update the document in line with the discussion

WMP to seek views of LMCs and specialists and collate consultation responses

8. Medicines supply chain

Dr Richard Greville, Director of ABPI Wales, provided a presentation in relation to medicines supply and identified areas for joint discussion. Currency changes and changes in price associated with PPRS were identified. Members raised examples of current difficulties experienced in medicines supply. One required resolution between the LHB and individual company with the support of ABPI. Dr Greville agreed to monitor the situation and update the Group accordingly.

ACTION

Dr Richard Greville to seek permission of IMS to circulate presentation

9. Feedback from 1000 Lives Campaign

The Chair invited Mrs Howard-Baker to provide feedback. Issues at the recent session included proposals for improved communication between primary and secondary care, low molecular weight heparins, the global trigger tool and the development of a computer template for heart failure.

10. Draft minutes of AWMSG meeting held August 2009

Members were asked to note the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held in August 2009.

11. WAG statement on specialised and tertiary services

The Chair referred members to the written Cabinet Statement by Edwina Hart, Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government in relation to specialised and tertiary services. The changes within Health Commission Wales following its review were noted.

12. Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme audit 2010/2011

12.1 NSAID audit

Mrs Howard-Baker provided the background to the draft NSAID audit on behalf of Dr Jacks who was unable to attend. Members were invited to comment on the detail of the draft before it is taken forward by PCQIS. The document was welcomed by members and a number of minor amendments agreed. It was recommended that a few practices pilot the new draft prior to AWPAG January meeting, the final document requiring endorsement at AWMSG March 2010.

ACTION

Subgroup to update audit in light of comments and consider pilot prior to January AWPAG

12.2 Local comparators

It was agreed that the inappropriate generics comparator, should be retained and the basket would be as defined by the BNF. Mr Hopkins agreed to post the updated list (tabled) on the HSW website. Members agreed that the local comparators baskets currently available require validating and updating. It was proposed that the comparators be divided between regions, each region nominating an individual to update the relevant basket.

ACTION

Mr Dave Hopkins to investigate the setting up of substitution basket for specials HOPMMs to arrange update

13. Feedback from Interface Pharmacists Group

Members were asked to note the draft minutes of the Interface Pharmacists Group held in July 2009.

Feedback from the Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Group (HoPMMs)

Mrs Howard-Baker outlined the issues considered by the HoPMMs at their recent meeting. These included controlled drug regulations and training requirements. It was suggested that the HoPMM representatives consider detailing their concerns to the Chair so that they can be raised at the AWMSG Steering Committee.

ACTION

HoPMMs to detail concerns to Chair/AWMSG Steering Committee

Feedback from the Chief Pharmacists Group

Mr John Terry outlined the issues considered by the Chief Pharmacists at their recent meeting.

Discharge from hospital of patients on Monitored dosage system (MDS)

The Chair provided the background and thanked Ms Nuala Brennan and Mr John Terry for providing the documentation. The group discussed the defined remit of patients admitted to hospital using a MDS who required one on discharge.

The differing systems across Wales were recognised together with alternative options and clinical governance implications.

This issue was identified as a potential 'incentivising secondary care scheme' to reduce the delay of patients being discharged from hospital on dosette boxes. Members agreed that a subgroup session on process mapping could be useful.

ACTION

Dr David Webb to seek views of discharge nurse

Mr John Terry to raise issue with Chief Pharmacists

15. Diclofenac use in hospitals

The Chair reported that the issue of use of diclofenac 'first line' in hospitals had been discussed by the interface pharmacists group when the availability of pre-packs for various preparations had been raised. At the meeting in July Mrs Delyth Simons had agreed to compile data and bring back to AWPAG for discussion. Mrs Simons was not in attendance and the Chairman confirmed this issue would be deferred until the next meeting. It was suggested that attendance and input by an anaesthetist would be informative.

ACTION

Defer agenda item until next meeting

Mrs Simons to compile data and provide paper to WMP for inclusion in AWPAG papers for discussion in January 2010

WMP to invite anaesthetist to attend the discussion at next meeting

16. Any other business

Statin template

The Chairman confirmed the AWMSG template for prescribing statins is due for review in December.

ACTION

Chair to seek the views of the AWMSG Steering Committee

WMP to include update of statin template on the agenda for next meeting

Communication and implementation of AWMSG information

Members asked for the AWMSG communication strategy to be included on the agenda of a future AWPAG meeting.

ACTION

WMP to add to the agenda of a future AWPAG meeting

Presentation on prescribing measures

Members welcomed the suggestion of a presentation on prescribing measures by Helen Adams at the next AWPAG meeting.

ACTION

WMP to add to the agenda of the next AWPAG meeting

AWPAG Constitution

The Chair discussed with members the need to review the role, responsibilities and membership of AWPAG in light of the recent changes within NHS Wales. Members agreed that input into issues of mutual interest from industry colleagues during the morning session had proved an acceptable compromise and supported this partnership working arrangement for the future.

ACTION

Chair to convey views to AWMSG Chairman

The Chair thanked members for their comments and closed the meeting.

17. Date and time of future meetings:

**Wednesday, 27th January 2010 at 10.45 am in the St Michaels Centre, Abergavenny
Thereafter, 21st April, 7th July and 20th October 2010**