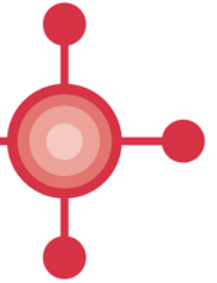


All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

Grŵp Strategaeth Meddyginiaethau Cymru Gyfan



# **Therapeutic Priorities and Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme Summary 2020–2021**

June 2020

This document has been prepared by a multiprofessional collaborative group, with support from the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) and the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), and has subsequently been endorsed by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

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The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) provides advice to NHS Wales on therapeutic priorities, through the production of resources such as the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs), National Prescribing Audits and educational materials. These priorities are reviewed annually by the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG), considered by AWMSG and published by 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.

In recent years, the importance of a coordinated approach, which addresses therapeutic issues across primary, secondary and tertiary care, as well as community care and self-care, has been recognised.

Although there is a clear framework through which therapeutic priorities can be promoted within primary care (formerly known as the All Wales Prescribing Incentive Scheme and now known as the Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme [CEPP]), there is no formal framework within the hospital setting. The therapeutic priorities identified in this document are applicable to all prescribers, and therefore support a coordinated approach.

## 2.0 PURPOSE

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This document summarises the AWMSG therapeutic priorities for 2020–2021, and highlights opportunities within the CEPP framework where local prescribing initiatives can be undertaken to support these priorities. There is an expectation that prescribing initiatives should address a balance of medicine safety, quality and cost-effectiveness.

Resources that can be used to support local prescribing initiatives have been collected together in section 4.0.

### 3.0 CEPP 2020–2021

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The CEPP framework consists of two equally weighted elements: prescribing indicators and an educational component.

#### 3.1 Prescribing indicators

##### 3.1.1 AWMSG National Prescribing Indicators

Prescribing indicators are used to highlight therapeutic priorities for NHS Wales and compare the ways in which different prescribers and organisations use particular medicines or groups of medicines. Prescribing indicators should be evidence-based, clear, easily understood and allow health boards, primary care clusters, GP practices and prescribers to compare current practice against an agreed standard. In October 2003, AWMSG agreed that NPIs were useful tools to promote rational prescribing across NHS Wales, and since then, NPIs have evolved to include secondary care in addition to primary care. It was agreed that NPIs should address efficiency as well as quality and that targets should be challenging, but achievable, and applicable at practice level.

For 2020-2021 the [National Prescribing Indicators: Supporting Safe and Optimised Prescribing](#), have been refreshed with a focus on three priority areas, supported by safety and efficiency domains as listed in Table 1.

##### 3.1.2 Local Comparators

The Local Comparators are former NPIs which have been retired, but which may continue to be useful for some health boards to monitor. Local Comparator data will be available on a quarterly basis via the Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA) for two years post NPI retirement. The list of Local Comparators and associated drug baskets for 2020–2021 can be found [here](#).

#### 3.2 Educational component

Materials to support the educational component, including national guidance, educational modules and National Prescribing Audits are listed in Section 4.0.

##### 3.2.1 Therapeutic update session(s)

Attendance at therapeutic update sessions is recommended, for example:

- Attendance of practice prescribing lead at therapeutic update educational event(s).
- Evidence of face-to-face feedback and discussion with the primary healthcare team and/or locality cluster groups. Meeting notes to include action points identified. Subsequent meeting to be held in the final quarter, reviewing progress against action points.

##### 3.2.2 National prescribing audits

Completion of one of the AWMSG-endorsed National Prescribing Audits is recommended.

Table 1. National Prescribing Indicators 2020–2021

National Prescribing Indicator	Applicable to:	Unit of measure	Target for 2020–2021	Data source
<b>Priority areas</b>				
<b>Analgesics</b>	Primary care	Opioid burden user defined group (UDG) ADQs per 1,000 patients	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below.	NWSSP
		Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below.	NWSSP
		Gabapentin and pregabalin DDDs per 1,000 patients	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below.	NWSSP
<b>Anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation</b>	Primary care	The number of patients with AF and a CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc score of 2 or more who are currently prescribed an anticoagulant, as a percentage of all patients with AF.	To increase the number of patients with AF and a CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc score of 2 or more prescribed an anticoagulant.	NWIS
		The number of patients diagnosed with AF who are prescribed an anticoagulant and have received an anticoagulant review within the last 12 months, as a percentage of all patients diagnosed with AF who are prescribed an anticoagulant.	To increase the number of patients who are prescribed an anticoagulant and have received an anticoagulant review within the last 12 months.	
		The number of patients diagnosed with AF who are prescribed antiplatelet monotherapy, as a percentage of all patients diagnosed with AF.	To reduce the number of patients with AF prescribed antiplatelet monotherapy.	
<b>Antimicrobial stewardship</b>	Primary care	Total antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-PUs	Health board target: a quarterly reduction of 5% against a baseline of April 2018–March 2019. GP Practice target: Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below.	NWSSP
		Number of 4C antimicrobial (co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and clindamycin) items per 1,000 patients	Health board target: A quarterly reduction of 10% against a baseline of April 2018–March 2019. GP Practice target: Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below.	NWSSP

National Prescribing Indicator	Applicable to:	Unit of measure	Target for 2020–2021	Data source
<b>Supporting Domain: Safety</b>				
<b>Prescribing Safety Indicators</b>	Primary care	Number of patients identified	No target set	NWIS
<b>Proton pump inhibitors</b>	Primary care	PPI DDDs per 1,000 PUs	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below	NWSSP
<b>Hypnotics and anxiolytics</b>	Primary care	Hypnotic and anxiolytic UDG ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PUs	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below	NWSSP
<b>Yellow Cards</b>	Primary care	Number of Yellow Cards submitted	One Yellow Card per 2,000 GP practice population	MHRA
	Health board		One Yellow Card per 2,000 health board population  20% or greater increase from baseline (2019–2020) for Yellow Cards submitted by secondary care  50% or greater increase from baseline (2019–2020) for Yellow Cards submitted by members of the public	
	Community pharmacy		No target set. Reported as the number of Yellow Cards submitted by health board	
<b>Supporting Domain: Efficiency</b>				
<b>Best value biological medicines</b>	Primary + secondary care	Quantity of best value biological medicines prescribed as a percentage of total 'biosimilar' plus 'reference' product.	Increase the appropriate use of cost-efficient biological medicines, including biosimilar medicines	NWSSP NWIS
<b>Insulin</b>	Primary + secondary care	Items/number of long-acting insulin analogues as a percentage of total long- and intermediate-acting insulin prescribed	Reduce prescribing of long-acting insulin analogues and achieve prescribing levels below the Welsh average	NWSSP NWIS
<b>Low value for prescribing</b>	Primary care	Low value for prescribing UDG spend per 1,000 patients	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile or show a reduction towards the quartile below	NWSSP

## 4.0 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LOCAL PRESCRIBING INITIATIVES

The following toolkits and therapeutic initiatives are highlighted for consideration by health boards to support local prescribing initiatives. This could be in addition to the National CEPP 2020–2021, where health boards have committed to use the national scheme, or where health boards have not adopted the National CEPP and have identified local programmes to improve prescribing.

### Analgesics

GUIDANCE
SIGN (2019) SIGN 136 Management of chronic pain NICE (2019) CG173: Neuropathic pain in adults: pharmacological management in non-specialist settings AWMSG (2016) Persistent Pain Resources NICE (2016) NG46: Controlled drugs: safe use and management PrescQIPP (2016) Neuropathic pain: Pregabalin and gabapentin prescribing Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (2015) Opioids Aware AWMSG (2014) Tramadol Educational Resource Materials PHE (2014) Advice for prescribers on the risk of the misuse of pregabalin and gabapentin AWMSG (2011) Patient Information Leaflet - Medicines for Mild to Moderate Pain Relief
AUDITS
AWMSG (2014) Tramadol Audit Materials
EDUCATIONAL
MHRA (2015) Opioids learning module

### Anticoagulation

GUIDANCE
AWMSG (2020) All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation NICE (2018) QS93: Atrial Fibrillation NICE (2014) Patient Decision Aid: Atrial fibrillation NICE (2014) Patient Decision Aid: Taking a statin to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
EDUCATIONAL
MHRA (2014) Oral anticoagulants learning module

### Antimicrobial Stewardship

GUIDANCE
PHW (2019) Quality Measures Point Prevalence Surveys of Antimicrobial Prescribing in Acute Hospitals in Wales 2013-2018 AWMSG (2015 – Partial update in 2018) Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines AWMSG (2018) Primary Care Empirical Urinary Tract Infection Treatment Guidelines PHW (2019) Antibacterial Usage in Primary Care in Wales 2014/15–2018/19 PHW (2019) Antibacterial Resistance in Blood Cultures Wales 2009–2018 PHW (2019) Antibacterial Resistance in Urinary Coliforms Wales 2009–2018 NICE (2016) QS121: Antimicrobial Stewardship WeMeReC (2012) Appropriate antibiotic use – whose responsibility?
AUDITS
AWMSG (2015) Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing
EDUCATIONAL
RCGP training resources TARGET Antibiotics



## Prescribing Safety Indicators

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### GUIDANCE

MHRA (2020) Valproate use by women and girls  
 NHS Scotland (2018) Polypharmacy Guidance  
 NICE (2018) Antipsychotic medicines for treating agitation, aggression and distress in people living with dementia (patient decision aid)  
 AWMSG (2017) Medicines Management Resource for Chronic Kidney Disease  
 PrescQIPP (2016) Bulletin 140: Anticholinergic drugs  
 AWMSG (2014) Polypharmacy: Guidance for Prescribing

### AUDITS

AWMSG (2018) CEPP National Audit – Antipsychotics in Dementia  
 AWMSG (2017) Medicines Management for Chronic Kidney Disease  
 AWMSG (2015) Towards Appropriate NSAID Prescribing

### EDUCATIONAL

MHRA (2015) Antipsychotics learning module

## Proton pump inhibitors

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### GUIDANCE

NICE (2019) CG184: Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and dyspepsia in adults: investigation and management  
 AWMSG (2018) Safe Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors  
 PrescQIPP (2015) Bulletin 92: Safety of long term PPIs  
 WeMeReC (2015) Proton pump inhibitors  
 AWMSG (2014) Polypharmacy: Guidance for Prescribing

### AUDITS

NICE (2014) Clinical audit tool: Dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease – H. pylori testing and eradication  
 NICE (2014) Clinical audit tool: Dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease – Interventions

## Hypnotics and anxiolytics

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### GUIDANCE

AWMSG (2016) Material to Support Appropriate Prescribing of Hypnotics and Anxiolytics across Wales  
 WeMeReC (2015) Sedative medicines in older people  
 AWMSG (2014) Polypharmacy: Guidance for Prescribing

### EDUCATIONAL

MHRA (2015) Benzodiazepines learning module

## Yellow Cards

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### GUIDANCE

MHRA (2015) Health Professional Guidance on Reporting  
 WeMeReC (2013) Pharmacovigilance Bulletin  
 Yellow Card website

### EDUCATIONAL

NHS Scotland e-learning modules on ADRs  
 Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) e-Learning module on the Yellow Card Scheme

## Best value biological medicines

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### GUIDANCE

AWTTC (2020) SPIRA – Biosimilar Efficiencies  
NHS England (2019) What is a biosimilar medicine?  
EMA (2018) European public assessment reports  
The Cancer Vanguard (2018) Biosimilars adoption  
NICE (2018) Key Therapeutic Topic 15: Biosimilar medicines  
EMA (2017) Biosimilars in the EU  
The Cancer Vanguard (2017) Biosimilars frequently asked questions for healthcare professionals  
AWMSG (2017) Position statement for biosimilar medicines  
European Commission (2016) What I need to know about Biosimilar Medicines: Information for patients  
NICE (2015) Position statement for biosimilar medicines

## Insulin

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### GUIDANCE

NICE (2019) NG28: Type 2 diabetes in adults: management  
Cochrane (2007) Long-acting analogues versus NPH insulin for type 2 diabetes mellitus

### EDUCATIONAL

AWTTC Best Practice Day 2019 Presentation by Lindsay George: Prudent prescribing of human versus analogue insulin (YouTube)

## Low value for prescribing

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### GUIDANCE

AWMSG (2020) Items Identified as Low Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales – Paper 3  
AWMSG (2019) Medicines Identified as Low Priority for Funding in NHS Wales – Paper 1  
AWMSG (2018) Medicines Identified as Low Priority for Funding in NHS Wales – Paper 2

## Depression

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### GUIDANCE

WeMeReC (2016) Depression in young people

### EDUCATIONAL

MHRA (2015) Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) learning module

## Other areas

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### GUIDANCE

NICE (2018) Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers

WeMeReC (2016) Optimising medicines use in care homes

WeMeReC (2015) Medicines-related admissions

NICE List of Quality Standards

### Other

Collaborative working with community pharmacists may include:

- Discussing repeat dispensing or batch prescribing and/or repeat prescribing or managed repeats with the aim of reducing waste
- Discussing the results of the community pharmacy High Risk Medicines Survey, with the aim of reducing medicines related harm to patients
- Developing arrangements for maximising the uptake of influenza vaccination within the community, with the aim of improving vaccination rates
- Joint review of the use of medicines by residents in care homes, with the aim of reducing medicines-related harm and medicines waste.