



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Chief Medical Officer for Wales

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Welcome to this latest CMO Update on issues which will be of interest to colleagues working across the health and care sector. I'd like to start by thanking everyone who has been providing vital services to patients and to our communities over the difficult winter months; I recognise that general practices and hospitals alike have been stretched this year and my visits to health facilities across Wales always leave me inspired by the care and compassion that our staff bring to their work even when we are faced with less than ideal circumstances.

I am also grateful to everyone for their efforts in preparing our system for the threat posed by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) which emerged from China at the start of the year. Earlier this month, I confirmed our first case here in Wales - something the Welsh Government and NHS Wales have been planning for over a number of weeks. We will continue to do all we can to detect imported cases early and isolate them to avoid any further spread but we do now need to develop and test robust plans for managing a possible epidemic in the UK. I will continue to provide briefings and updates as the situation evolves however the latest information can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

If you have any comments on the content or suggestions for inclusion/topics then please feel free to e-mail me at: PSChiefMedicalOfficer@gov.wales

Thank you for your continued work in supporting the health and wellbeing of everyone in Wales.

Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Inside this issue:

Respiratory disease during winter and the COPD exacerbation pathway	2
National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2020	2
Welsh Government publish update on action to tackle gambling-related harm in Wales	3
Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2020-2022 Delivery Plan	4
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill	5
NHS Wales e-Library for Health	5
All Wales medicines strategy group (AWMSG)	6

Respiratory disease during winter and the COPD exacerbation pathway

The Respiratory Health Implementation Group has published guidance and support for health boards on the management of respiratory disease during winter; this includes a COPD exacerbation pathway that is being piloted in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in partnership with the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

More information on the respiratory winter planning guidance can be found at: www.clinicalscience.org.uk/the-nhs-wales-respiratory-winter-plan/

More information on the COPD exacerbation pilot can be found at: www.clinicalscience.org.uk/national-pathway-to-prevent-unnecessary-admissions-to-hospital-for-copd/

National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2020

The Welsh Government has been considering the provision of community pharmacy services and how these could better respond to the needs of local people.

A public consultation exercise on draft Regulations was recently completed, which will revoke and replace the existing National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulation 2013.

The Regulations govern the provision of pharmaceutical services and will, from April 2020, introduce a number of significant changes to the way health boards plan and deliver pharmaceutical services in their area.

The summary of responses to the consultation has been published: gov.wales/national-health-service-pharmaceutical-services-wales-regulations-2020

It was clear from the feedback received, from both a stakeholder engagement event and the formal consultation, that there was a great deal of support for the changes proposed to the way in which pharmaceutical services are delivered in Wales.

However, it was also clear from the responses that the proposed period for health boards to prepare their initial Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment was considered too short. We have therefore extended this period to twelve months.

From 1 April 2021 health boards must have published their Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and subsequently, applications to open new pharmacies will need to satisfy the health board that it meets a need identified in their Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

Welsh Government publish update on action to tackle gambling-related harm in Wales

On 13 January, the Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething AM published an update on action to tackle gambling-related harm in Wales. In this update, the Minister set out the collaborative approach that is being adopted with delivery partners across Wales to raise awareness of gambling harms and related support services. Within two health boards, a piloted approach that explores how people with gambling problems could be supported

in NHS services is being taken forward. The Minister also announced the approval of £25,000 of funding via Health and Care Research Wales to Swansea University for the setting up of a network to support the development of gambling research in Wales.

The Written Statement is available on the Welsh Government website here: gov.wales/written-statement-tackling-gambling-related-harm-wales

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2020-2022 Delivery Plan

On 6 February, the Minister for Health & Social Services, Vaughan Gething AM launched the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2020-2022 Delivery Plan, which follows the successful launch of Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales on 17 October 2019.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales sets out the Welsh Government's long term plan to prevent and reduce obesity in Wales across four themes: Healthy Environments, Healthy Settings, Healthy People and Leadership and Enabling Change.

The first of five, two yearly delivery plans is the start of the journey and has a strong focus on children, young people and families.

Eight National Priority areas have been developed as part of the Delivery Plan which will cut across the four national themes:

- 1: Shifting the food environment towards healthier options.
- 2: Creating active environments and spaces to enable us to move more.
- 3: Unlocking the potential within our natural environment.
- 4: Developing our learning environment to be healthy, active and to promote emotional wellbeing.

5: Ensuring that our children get the best start in life and are a healthy weight starting school.

6: Tackling barriers to making healthy choices and reducing health inequalities.

7: Delivering equitable support services for people to become or maintain a healthy weight.

8: Building a system of prevention which enables leadership at every lev.

The Priority areas demonstrate a change in population behaviour and habits, which will be encouraged and promoted through settings and environments across Wales, and through local and nationwide leadership. The Minister chairs a National Implementation Board, to oversee progress and provide a governance mechanism for the delivery of the plan which met for the first time in January and includes key partners who will be influential in the success of Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales.

Find out more about the delivery plan in the following link: gov.wales/healthy-weight/healthy-wales-delivery-plan-2020-2022

Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill

The Bill was introduced into the Assembly on 17 June 2019 and is currently at Stage 3 of the National Assembly for Wales's scrutiny process. The next proceedings are scheduled to take place on 10 March 2020.

The main purposes of the Bill are to:

- strengthen the existing duty of quality on NHS bodies and extend this to the Welsh Ministers in relation to their health service functions
- establish an organisational duty of candour on NHS bodies and primary care providers, requiring them to be open and honest with patients and service users when things go wrong

- strengthen the voice of citizens, by replacing Community Health Councils with a new all-Wales Citizen Voice Body that will represent the interests of people across health and social care

- enable the appointment of Vice Chairs for NHS Trusts, bringing them into line with health boards.

To follow progress of the Bill, including links to its explanatory memorandum, committee sessions, reports and correspondence with the Minister, see the National Assembly for Wales website:

www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=25475

NHS Wales e-Library for Health

The NHS Wales e-Library for Health provides access to a wide range of databases to meet the needs of the diverse professions and specialties across NHS Wales such as medicines and therapies, health and social care, travel health, midwifery, dentistry, education and much more. From April 2020, the NHS Wales e-library for Health will no longer provide access to TRAVAX* from NHS Scotland following a two-year review of travel health information resources.

* TRAVAX is the A-Z of Healthy Travel interactive database providing up to the minute travel health information for health care professionals.

Should your service or department link to TRAVAX, please note that from April 2020, this link will no longer work and will need to be changed to TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk/). For further information as to why and how this decision was made please see the news item on the NHS Wales website:

elh.nhs.wales/news1/latest-news/nhs-wales-e-library-subscription-to-travax-ceasing-april-2020/

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

Endocrine Management of Gender Dysphoria in Adults

awmsg.org/docs/awmsg/medman/Endocrine%20management%20of%20gender%20dysphoria%20in%20adults.pdf

This document is intended for non-specialist practitioners engaged in the prescribing and monitoring of medical therapies used in the management of gender dysphoria, making reference to and supporting the Directed Enhanced Service for the Hormone Treatment Scheme for Adult Transgender Patients in NHS Wales. This document was endorsed by AWMSG in October 2019.

Medicines Identified as Low Priority for Funding in NHS Wales – Paper 1 (Update)

awmsg.org/docs/awmsg/medman/Medicines%20Identified%20as%20Low%20Priority%20for%20Funding%20in%20NHS%20Wales.pdf

The first paper in the Low Priority for Funding in NHS Wales series has been updated following its original publication in October 2017. The update includes revisions to the section on liothyronine and recent medicines expenditure data provided as an addendum. This document update was endorsed by AWMSG in October 2019.

National Prescribing Indicators 2019-2020: Analysis of Prescribing Data to June 2019

awmsg.org/docs/awmsg/medman/National%20Prescribing%20Indicators%202019-2020%20Analysis%20of%20Prescribing%20Data%20to%20June%202019.pdf

This papers reports on the progress of health boards against each of the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2019–2020, for the quarter ending June 2019. The majority of NPIs with a threshold showed improvement in line with the aim of each indicator, compared with the equivalent quarter of the previous year (quarter ending June 2018). The NPI for prescribing of gabapentin and pregabalin did not show an improvement (2.44% increase) and prescribing of long-acting insulin analogues in primary care (0.11% increase) did not show an improvement. This document was presented to AWMSG for information in December 2019.

AWMSG advice

The All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AWMSG) has recently provided advice on a number of medicines, which Welsh Government has ratified. If a medicine is recommended by AWMSG and approved by Welsh Government, funding must be made available by health boards within two months of notification of ratification. If a medicine is not recommended it should not be prescribed routinely within NHS Wales for the indication stated. The following AWMSG recommendations are available in full on the AWMSG website: www.awmsg.org.

AWTTC reference number	Medicine	Indication
Recommended medicines		
2406	diamorphine hydrochloride (Ayendi) 720 micrograms, 1,600 micrograms nasal spray	Treatment of acute severe nociceptive pain in children and adolescents 2 to 15 years of age in a hospital setting. Diamorphine hydrochloride nasal spray should be administered in the emergency setting by practitioners experienced in the administration of opioids in children and with appropriate monitoring. www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2406
3942	fampridine (Fampyra) 10 mg prolonged-release tablet	Improvement of walking in adult patients with multiple sclerosis with walking disability (Expanded Disability Status Scale 4–7). www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/3942
3917	glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Maviret) 100 mg/40 mg film-coated tablet	Treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in adolescents aged 12 to <18 years. www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/3917
2127	glycerol phenylbutyrate (Ravicti) 1.1 g/ml oral formulation	Adjunctive therapy for chronic management of patients with urea cycle disorders including deficiencies of carbamoyl phosphate-synthase-I (CPS), ornithine carbamoyltransferase (OTC), argininosuccinate synthetase (ASS), argininosuccinate lyase (ASL), arginase I (ARG) and ornithine translocase deficiency hyperornithinaemia-hyperammonaemia homocitrullinuria syndrome (HHH) who cannot be managed by dietary protein restriction and/or amino acid supplementation alone. www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2127

AWTTC reference number	Medicine	Indication
4130	zanamivir (Dectova) 10 mg/ml solution for infusion	<p>For the treatment of complicated and potentially life-threatening influenza A or B virus infection in adult and paediatric patients (aged ≥6 months) when:</p> <p>The patient's influenza virus is known or suspected to be resistant to anti-influenza medicinal products other than zanamivir, and/or other anti-viral medicinal products for treatment of influenza, including inhaled zanamivir, are not suitable for the individual patient. Zanamivir (Dectova®) should be used in accordance with official guidance.</p> <p>www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/4130</p>
Recommended with restrictions		
4129	cefepime dihydrochloride monohydrate (Renapime) 1 g, 2 g powder for injection/infusion	<p>Treatment of infections caused by bacteria that are cefepime-sensitive: lower respiratory tract infections, including nosocomial pneumonia and community acquired pneumonia, acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis and secondary bacterial infection of acute bronchitis; uncomplicated and complicated urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis; skin and subcutaneous infections; intra-abdominal infections, including peritonitis and biliary tract infections; gynaecological infections; bacterial meningitis in infants and children; in combination with other antibacterial agents in the management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection; treatment of patients with bacteraemia that occurs in association with, or is suspected to be associated with, any of the infections listed above. Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.</p> <p>www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/4129</p>

AWTTC reference number	Medicine	Indication
4089	dupilumab (Dupixent) 200 mg, 300 mg solution for injection	Treatment of moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in adolescents ≥ 12 to < 18 years of age who are candidates for systemic therapy. www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/4089
Not recommended		
3947	melatonin (Slenyto) 1 mg, 5 mg prolonged release tablet	Treatment of insomnia in children and adolescents aged 2-18 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Smith-Magenis syndrome, where sleep hygiene measures have been insufficient. www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/3947

In the absence of a submission from the holder of the marketing authorisation, the following medicines cannot be endorsed for use within NHS Wales.

AWTTC reference number	Statements of Advice	Company
3500	angiotensin II (Giapreza) 2.5 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/3500	La Jolla Pharmaceutical
2909	eculizumab (Soliris) 300 mg concentrate for solution for infusion www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2909	Alexion Pharma UK Ltd
2760	meropenem/vaborbactam (Vaborem) 1g/1g solution for infusion www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2760	Menarini Farmaceutica Internazionale srl

AWTTC reference number	Statements of Advice	Company
2141	ramucirumab (Cyramza) 10 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2141	Eli Lilly & Co Ltd
2451	talazoparib (Talzenna) 0.25 mg, 1 mg hard capsule www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/2451	Pfizer Ltd
4404	treosulfan (Trecondi) 50 mg/ml powder for solution for injection/infusion www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/appraisalinfo/4404	medac GmbH

The next AWMSG meeting will be on 17 March 2020. All meeting documentation is available on the AWMSG website www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/meetings_awmsg_2020.html prior to the meeting.

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