

Minutes of the **Medicines Programme Board** held via Microsoft Teams, on
Wednesday, 17th September 2025.

Present:	Dr Andrew Tresidder (AT)	Chair, NHS Somerset GP Patient Safety Lead.
	Zoe Baillie (ZB)	Prescribing Technician, NHS Somerset
	Bernice Cooke (BC)	Director of Nursing and Deputy Chief Nursing Officer Patient Safety Specialist, NHS Somerset
	Dr Orla Dunn (OD)	Consultant in Public Health, Somerset County Council
	Dr David Davies (DD)	West Somerset Representative
	Lynette Emsley (LE)	Associate Director of Continuing Healthcare, ICB
	Shaun Green (SG)	Chief Pharmacist, NHS Somerset
	Esther Kubiak (EK)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Sam Morris (SM)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Andrew Prowse (AP)	Director of Pharmacy, Chair of Drugs and Therapeutics committee, SFT
	Dr Rob Tippin (RT)	LMC Representative
	Clare Woodhead (CW)	All Age Continuing Care Quality and Care Sector Manager, ICB
Apologies:	Peter Berman (PB)	Lay Representative
	Dr Matthew Hayman (MH)	Chair of Drugs & Therapeutics Committee, SFT
	Yvonne Lamb (YL)	Operations Manager, LPC
	Mihaela Tirnoveanu (MT)	Taunton Representative
	Dr Val Sprague (VS)	Bridgwater Representative

1 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

AT welcomed everyone to the Medicines Programme Board.

2 REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2.1 The Medicines Programme Board received the Register of Members' Interests relevant to its membership.

The Medicines Programme Board noted the Register of Members' Interests.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

3.1 Under the NHS Somerset's arrangements for managing conflicts of interest, any member making a declaration of interest is able to participate in the discussion of the particular agenda item concerned, where appropriate, but is excluded from the decision-making and voting process if a vote is required. In these circumstances, there must be

confirmation that the meeting remains quorate in order for voting to proceed. If a conflict of interest is declared by the Chairman, the agenda item in question would be chaired by a nominated member of the Medicines Programme Board.

There were no declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd July 2025

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

4.2 Review of action points

Most items were either complete or, on the agenda.

Actions specifically noted:

RT is facilitating conversations between the frailty teams and the LMC.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Medicines Management:

- NHS England: Medicines Optimisation – Good Practice Document
- ICB Cluster arrangements

SG update the board on the ICB cluster arrangements involving Somerset, Dorset, and BSW:

- The Chair and Deputy Chair have been appointed.
- There is ongoing collaboration between the three ICBs.
- No changes to team structures or funding have been announced.

NHS England has identified medicines optimisation as one of four national priority areas for clusters.

6 Items for Approval

6.1 PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION (PGD) - Administration of levonorgestrel 1500 micrograms tablet(s) for emergency contraception provision by Public Health Nursing in Somerset

MPB approved

Get final sign off.

Action: HB

6.2 DELEGATED TASKS AND MEDICINES POLICY
(For Approval with Action: To format the appendices.)

LE and CW presented the new Delegated Tasks and Medicines Policy:

- It has been developed collaboratively across the ICB, local authority, and Somerset Foundation Trust and involvement from the RCPA to make it as robust as possible.
- It encompasses legislative changes and safeguarding review findings.
- It clarifies the delegation processes, accountability, and supervision.

- It clearly defines the legal limits of delegation for local authorities and highlights the importance of involving secondary care in discharge planning to ensure safe transitions and clear accountability.
- It emphasizes the responsibility of the delegator to determine appropriate supervision, includes guidance on training and competency monitoring, and acknowledges the need for ongoing work to address practical scenarios.
- Once the policy has been approved there will be a formal launch and communication to all stakeholders.

Everyone was thanked for their input and contributions to this policy.

MPB approved.

Sign off policy and return to CW & LE.

Action: SG & HB

Share this policy with secondary care and out of area hospitals.

Action: CW & LE

Meet outside of this meeting to discuss.

Action: AT & CW

- 6.3 Hepatitis B PGD – with comments from Hels Bennett
MPB approved
Get final sign off. **Action: HB**
- 6.4 All Wales Adult Asthma Management and Prescribing Guideline & comments
This has been reviewed by Steve Holmes (National respiratory lead) and the MM team. Encompasses NICE and BTS guidance. Useful resource for primary care.
MPB approved
Add to website. **Action: DB**
- 6.5 South West region: Back-up antibiotic prescribing guidance for primary care
Produced by the region as an update for old national guidance.
MPB approved.
Send out in a communication to stakeholders. **Action: Helen Spry**
- 7 Other Issues for Discussion**
- 7.1 Discontinuation of Levemir insulin – Action Required

Over 1000 patients using Levemir in Somerset. There is a national requirement to implement a detailed plan to facilitate switch within 12 months.

Some GP practices will be confident to make changes within primary care others will need support from secondary care. It will vary by GP and patient complexity.

Concern around all patients being switched at once to the same insulin would lead to more supply issues.

Bring further updates back to MPB.

Action: SG

- 7.2 GIRFT: Bridging the interface between primary and secondary care, mental health and community services
Get It Right First Time document has been published. This has been written by experts wanting best practice gold standards. Somerset is working towards many of these standards.

Use of dispensing robots in hospitals has streamlined medicine supply on discharge.

MPB suggested a 14 day supply of medication on leaving secondary care.

Review the minimum number of days supply on discharge.

Action: AP

Quality of discharge summaries being provided to primary care is an ongoing issue, with work continuing try and improve process and standards. AP is discussing a workstream to introduce pharmacy reviews of discharges.

Roll out of electronic prescriptions for outpatients will phase out use of paper FP10s by the end of 2026, to improve safety and efficiency.

Patients are still being encouraged to take their own medications into secondary care with them for safety reasons and waste reduction.

8 Other Issues for Noting

- 8.1 Primary-secondary care interface issues form

QR code for reporting form.

Noted

- 8.2 The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2025

Noted

- 8.3 Government to combat flu outbreaks by removing red tape

Noted

- 8.4 NHS England: Harm from delayed administration of rasburicase for tumour lysis syndrome

Doesn't affect primary care but has been harm to patients in secondary care. Feedback from Catherine that there is a plan in place. Noted.

9 Additional Communications for Noting

- 9.1 FW: NICE QS - Cardiovascular risk assessment and lipid modification- link to diet and metabolic health - Email from SG – 23/7/25
Noted
- 9.2 Updated - CVDPREVENT: Improvement Opportunities March 2025 – Email from Marco Yeung – 23/07/25
Noted
- 9.3 Increase in Prescribing and quality improvement potential rewards for 2025/26 scheme – Email from SG – 24/7/25
Noted
- 9.4 For Information & Action: Improving Equity in Anticoagulant Use for Atrial Fibrillation – Email from Marco Yeung – 31/7/25
Noted
- 9.5 Alternatives to GLP1s - From Sickness to prevention – Email from SG – 8/8/25
Noted
- 9.6 Observation: Accurate Chronic Kidney Disease Documentation to Improve Cardiovascular Outcomes – Email from Marco Yeung – 12/8/25
Noted
- 9.7 Requests (including IFR applications) for prescribing of Mounjaro for patients outside of NICE Criteria and Cohort one for Obesity. – Email from SG – 13/08/25
Noted
- 9.8 LAMA and separate ICS/LABA inhaler to Triple inhaler (Saves £212,000 a year and is greener with reduced waste) – Email from HS – 2/9/25
Noted
- 9.9 ICB advice on prescription duration – Email from SG – 4/9/25
Noted
- 9.10 Rybelsus® (oral semaglutide): risk of medication error due to introduction of new formulation with increased bioavailability – Email from SG – 4/9/25
Noted
- 9.11 RE: diltiazem warning in patients with heart failure – Email from SG – 11/9/25
Noted

10 Formulary Applications

10.1 Prometrium (progesterone) 400mg, vaginal capsules, Besins Healthcare (UK) Ltd.
 15 capsules = £20
 Branded progesterone licensed for threatened miscarriage.
 Add to formulary - generic remaining the preferred, cost-effective option.
 MPB approved.
 Add to netformulary. **Action: EK**
 Add to summary of formulary changes **Action: Daniela Broughton**
 Add to preferred brands list (for licensed indication only)
Action: Caroline Taylor

10.2 Biosimilar Aflibercept 2mg
 Move to first line
 AP made early engagement with ophthalmology, leading to full support for switching from Eylea to the biosimilar aflibercept, with implementation planned for late November.
 MPB approved.
 Add to netformulary. **Action: DY**

11 Reports From Other Meetings Feedback

11.1 Primary Care Network Feedback

Progress updates on:

- Structured medication reviews
- Deprescribing
- Social prescribing options e.g., Pain, sleep etc.
- PCN workforce

Nothing to note.

Summary

11.2 Community Pharmacy Somerset Report

SM presented overview from Michelle:

Over 90% of pharmacies remain open for full hours, with high numbers of consultations, flu vaccinations, and other services delivered, despite some closures in one chain.

11.3 LMC Report

Nothing to note.

11.4 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust D&TC Meeting – Next meeting – 19th September

11.5 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Mental Health Medicines Group – Last meeting 9th September – No minutes

11.6 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Medicines Governance Committee – Last meeting – 30th July – No minutes

Part 2 – Items for Information or Noting

12 Current Performance

12.1 Medicines Program Board Chief Pharmacist Report

SG updated MPB on current performance in Somerset:

- Somerset now ranked fifth lowest in national spend.
- Additional funding secured from finance to better reflect actual needs.
- Drug supply issue spending still significant but half of what it was this time last year.
- Prescribing of tirzepatide is increasing spending and the list price is due to double from September however there is a rebate in place to counter-act this.
- Continue to focus on patient outcomes, patient safety and controlling costs.

13 Rebate Schemes

13.1 Lerfabec inhaler. Commence date: TBC

Noted

14 NICE Technology Appraisals

14.1 TA1079 Fruquintinib for previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer Commissioned by NHS England, provided by secondary care – acute.

Red drug.

MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.

Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY

Action: ZB

14.2 Terminated appraisal - TA1084 Idecabtagene vicleucel for treating relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma after 2 to 4 treatments

NICE Terminated appraisal.

Not recommended.

MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.

Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK

Action: ZB

14.3 Terminated appraisal - TA1083 Lisocabtagene maraleucel for treating relapsed or refractory aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma after 1 systemic treatment when a stem cell transplant is unsuitable

NICE Terminated appraisal.

Not recommended.

MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.

Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK

Action: ZB

14.4 Terminated appraisal - TA1082 Letermovir for preventing cytomegalovirus infection after a kidney transplant

NICE Terminated appraisal.
Not recommended.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.
Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK
Action: ZB

14.5 Update - TA753 Cenobamate for treating focal onset seizures in epilepsy
MPB Noted.

14.6 TA1085 Vanzacaftor-tezacaftor-deutivacaftor for treating cystic fibrosis with 1 or more F508del mutations in the CFTR gene in people 6 years and over
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.
Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY
Action: ZB

14.7 TA1087 Betula verrucosa for treating moderate to severe allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis caused by tree pollen
Commissioned by ICBs, provided by primary care and secondary care – acute
It should be initiated by physicians with experience in treating allergic diseases. The first tablet should be taken under medical supervision and the patient monitored for at least half an hour. However there is no allergy service in Somerset.

Amber 2 drug without shared care trust initiated.
MPB agreed pending further review.

Ask Bristol what their position is.
Add to TLS Amber2.
Add to netformulary Amber2.

Action: SG
Action: ZB
Action: EK

14.8 TA1086 Ribociclib with an aromatase inhibitor for adjuvant treatment of hormone receptor-positive HER2-negative early breast cancer at high risk of recurrence
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.
Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY
Action: ZB

14.9 Terminated appraisal - TA1089 Sacituzumab govitecan for treating hormone receptor-positive HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer after 2 or more treatments
NICE Terminated appraisal.
Not recommended.

MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.
Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK
Action: ZB

- 14.10 TA1088 Ruxolitinib cream for treating non-segmental vitiligo in people 12 years and over
Not recommended by NICE.
Not recommended.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.
Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK
Action: ZB

- 14.11 TA1090 Durvalumab with tremelimumab for untreated advanced or unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.
Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY
Action: ZB

- 14.12 TA1091 Tarlatamab for extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer after 2 or more treatments
Not recommended by NICE.
Not recommended.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Not recommended drug.
Add to TLS Not recommended.

Action: EK
Action: ZB

- 14.13 TA1092 Pembrolizumab with carboplatin and paclitaxel for untreated primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.
Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY
Action: ZB

- 14.14 TA1093 Idebenone for treating visual impairment in Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy in people 12 years and over
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.

Add to NetFormulary Red drug.
Add to TLS Red drug.

Action: DY
Action: ZB

- 14.15 TA1095 Guselkumab for previously treated moderately to severely active Crohn's disease
Commissioned by ICBs, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.
- Add to NetFormulary Red drug. **Action: DY**
Add to TLS Red drug. **Action: ZB**
- 14.16 TA1094 Guselkumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
Commissioned by ICBs, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.
- Add to NetFormulary Red drug. **Action: DY**
Add to TLS Red drug. **Action: ZB**
- 14.17 Update - TA924 Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes
MPB Noted.
- 14.18 Update - TA1026 Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity
MPB Noted.
- 14.19 TA1096 Benralizumab for treating relapsing or refractory eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by Secondary care - acute / tertiary care.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.
- Add to NetFormulary Red drug. **Action: DY**
Add to TLS Red drug. **Action: ZB**
- 14.20 TA1097 Enfortumab vedotin with pembrolizumab for untreated unresectable or metastatic urothelial cancer when platinum-based chemotherapy is suitable
Commissioned by NHS England, provided by NHS hospital trusts.
Red drug.
MPB Agreed.
- Add to NetFormulary Red drug. **Action: DY**
Add to TLS Red drug. **Action: ZB**
- 15 **NICE Clinical Guidance**
- 15.1 Update - CG185 Bipolar disorder
Assessment and management - updated recommendations on using valproate in line with Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) safety advice on valproate use in men.
MPB noted.

- 15.2 Update - NG237 Suspected acute respiratory infection in over 16s
Assessment at first presentation and initial management - removed the section on clinical diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia in primary care. This information is covered by NICE's guideline on pneumonia: diagnosis and management.
This guideline replaces recommendation 1.1.1, and updates recommendations 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 from NICE guideline CG191 (published December 2014).
MPB noted.
- 15.3 NG250 Pneumonia: diagnosis and management
This guideline covers diagnosing, assessing, and treating community-acquired and hospital-acquired pneumonia, including bacterial pneumonia secondary to COVID-19, in babies over 1 month (corrected gestational age), children, young people and adults. It aims to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.
MPB noted.
- 15.4 Update - NG106 Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management
Reviewed the evidence on treating and monitoring heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, mildly reduced ejection fraction and preserved ejection fraction. We amended the recommendations on heart failure with reduced ejection and added new recommendations on heart failure with mildly reduced and preserved ejection fraction. For more details, see the update information.
MPB noted.
- 15.5 NG251 DMD Care UK's guideline on cardiac care of children with dystrophinopathy and females carrying DMD-gene variations: NICE review
NICE has reviewed DMD Care UK's guideline on cardiac care of children with dystrophinopathy and females carrying DMD-gene variations. We think the guideline from DMD Care UK is a useful resource that will help clinicians improve care in this area.
MPB noted.
- 16 Medicines Safety Summary**
- 16.1 ICB Medicines Safety update
ICB Medicines Safety update
World Patient Safety Day
 - 17th September 2025
NPSA
 - Shortage of Antimicrobial Agents Used in Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment
Eclipse update
MHRA DSU
 - Abrysvo▼ (Pfizer RSV vaccine) and Arexvy▼ (GSK RSV vaccine): be alert to a small risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination in older adults
UKHSA

- Issues warning over botulism
- -Health protection teams
- -Updated information about the use of paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination

EMA

- Ixchiq: temporary restriction on vaccinating people 65 years and older to be lifted
- Review of risk of encephalitis with varicella vaccines concluded
- PRAC assessing new data on potential risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children born to men treated with valproate

SPS update

SPS MSN

- Salbutamol 100micrograms/dose breath actuated inhalers CFC free
- Medicine Supply Notification: Amiodarone 200mg tablets
- Betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets sugar free
- Abidec® Multivitamin drops Abidec® Multivitamin drops are out of stock until further notice.

DoHSC MSN

- Repaglinide 500mcg, 1mg & 2mg tablets
- Levemir flexpen and penfills
- Estradiol (Progynova) patches

MHRA

- Yellow Card Biobank – GLP1's and acute pancreatitis

Courts & Tribunals prevention of future deaths

NHS BAS SSP

- SSP077 (Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free) and SSP078 (Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free)

Valproate & Topiramate data

Datix update

MPB noted.

17 Risk Review and Management

17.1 General Risk and Management

-Trusts

-ICB

Nothing to note.

17.2 System NICE Implementation Risks

-ICB & Trusts

-NICE guidance implementation position

Nothing to note.

18 Any Other Business

18.1 Prescribing Leads Conference

The Medicines Management Prescribing Leads Conference on will be held on 18th November, at Edgar Hall, 1pm-4pm (In-Person & Online)

18.2 Pharmacy First service

The pharmacy first service expands from October to include emergency contraception becoming nationally commissioned rather than Public Health commissioned.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Wednesday 20th May 2026

Wednesday 15th July 2026

Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Wednesday 18th November 2026

DRAFT