

Minutes of the **Somerset Prescribing Forum** held via Microsoft Teams, on
Wednesday, 14th September 2022.

Present:	Dr Clare Barlow (CB)	Chair D&TC, Somerset NHSFT
	Steve DuBois (SDB)	Chief Pharmacist, Somerset NHSFT
	Shaun Green (SG)	Deputy Director of Clinical Effectiveness and Medicines Management, NHS Somerset
	Sam Morris (SM)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Jean Perry (JP)	Contracts Manager, NHS Somerset
	Andrew Prowse (AP)	Chief Pharmacist and Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer, YDH NHS FT
	Caroline Taylor (CT)	Prescribing Technician, NHS Somerset
	Dr Andrew Tresidder (AT)	Chair, NHS Somerset GP Patient Safety Lead

Apologies:

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

No apologies were received.

2 REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- 2.1 The Somerset Prescribing Forum received the Register of Members' Interests relevant to its membership.

There were no further amendments to the Register.

The Somerset Prescribing Forum noted the Register of Members' Interests.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- 3.1 Under the CCG'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 Somerset Prescribing Forum.

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

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th July 2022

- 4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July were agreed as a correct record.

4.2 Review of action points

-All compete

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Discuss membership

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for SPF need updating, to replace instances of CCG with ICB, and Clinical Executive Committee with Executive Committee.

A discussion took place addressing limited attendance for this meeting and whether people, with a system wide interest with medicines optimisation, could potentially be invited to become members of this group.

Do we invite the ICB Chief Nursing Officer or Chief Medical Officer along?

The intention, as the ICB takes on its shape and function, is to work even more collaboratively than we have been. Making sure SPF fulfils its function as the area prescribing committee for Somerset.

AP informed the group, in terms of committee structures, currently SomersetFT DTC and Somerset Medicines Governance Committee at YDH. Looking to create an overarching DTC starting from January 2023, overseeing formulary management across YDH and SomersetFT.

Potential for merging Medicines Governance elements from April 2023.

With one single Medicines Governance committee for the joint organisation, and subgroups supporting the Medicines Governance committee.

For example, one for mental health, one for stewardship etc.

CB felt the membership has evolved and moved away from the original ToR where we were a very balanced committee, roughly 50-50 clinicians and non-clinicians (pharmacy and medicines management). The collaboration between the two is crucial.

For balance of decision making and understanding having more clinician representation moving forward would be important.

SDB suggested the possibility of having a system wide committee with PCN, hospice, private providers representation.

SM suggested linking in primary care contracts.

SG thanked members for their useful comments, any further feedback would be really appreciated.

Also raised that presently, the agenda contains numerous items for noting. Suggested agenda with an area containing items for decision making or for discussion and agree & a second section purely for noting that we don't routinely go through unless there's something contentious or we want to raise.

JP asked if her attendance is necessary. Also raising the possibility of SPF linking with providers outside of Somerset e.g., Exeter, Bristol, Bath etc

Keep on agenda for Novembers meeting

Action: CT

6 Other Issues for Discussion

6.1 **Ogluo 0.5mg solution for injection in pre-filled pen.** Tetrus Pharma Ltd, cost £73:00, each pre-filled pen contains 0.5 mg glucagon in 0.1 mL

Ogluo 1mg solution for injection in pre-filled pen Tetrus Pharma Ltd, cost £73:00, each pre-filled pen contains 1 mg glucagon in 0.2 mL

NHS Somerset not recommending, a niche product for very individual patients.

-Noted

Add to TLS 'Not for general use'.

Action: ZTW

6.2 **Nebulised asthma rescue therapy in children: home use of nebulisers in paediatric asthma should be initiated and managed only by specialists**

Remind primary care not to respond to requests for people who've purchased their own nebulizer.

Approved

-Noted

Add to TLS RED nebulised asthma rescue therapy for paediatric asthma

Action: ZTW

6.3 **Differences between metolazone preparations and safety considerations**

Usually initiated by or recommended by specialists and then prescribing taken over by primary care.

-Noted

7 Other Issues for Noting

-None

8 Additional Communications for Noting

These are items shared by the MMT with primary care colleagues, which may be of interest for trusts and the wider system.

8.1 **Semaglutide quantities - position of GLP-1s re: weight loss**

Highlighting the inappropriate prescribing of large quantities.

Requests coming into primary care for weight loss use.

Trusts to raise

Action: AP

8.2 **Lipid management searches - NHS Digital**

-Noted

8.3 **Tildiem supply and safety issues**

Inappropriate prescribing: once a day preparation being prescribed twice a day, this poses a patient risk.

-Noted

- 8.4 **Hypromellose 0.3% drops – removal from Drug Tariff**
-Noted
- 8.5 **Emollients BEE study | Best Emollients for Eczema (BEE)**
-Noted
- 8.6 **Codeine and Tramadol poor metabolisers**
Prevalence of poor and ultra-metabolisers. Side-effect issue, patient issue, not benefiting.
Genetic & genomic testing is coming to primary care which may help identify these patients.
-Noted
- 9 Formulary Applications**
- 9.1 **Itzenal 7.5 mg/ 5 ml Oral Solution, Sugar-Free** (Alimemazine tartrate)
Zentiva, 100ml - £89.00
Itzenal 30 mg/ 5ml Oral Solution, Sugar-Free (Alimemazine tartrate)
Zentiva, 100ml - £99.00
First licensed sugar-free alimemazine oral solution available in the UK
Approved
Add to TLS ‘Not for general use’. **Action: ZTW**
- 9.2 **Glucomen Day real-time CGM, £33.50 per 14-day sensor**
Approved use in Somerset for all NICE recommended patients aged >6.
Add to formulary **Action: EK**
Add to TLS GREEN **Action: ZTW**
- 9.3 **Virgan, Ganciclovir eye gel 0.15%,** Thea Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 5g - £19.99
Proposal first line for treatment of acute herpetic keratitis in adults, excluding pregnant women.
-Approved
Add to antimicrobial guidance **Action: Helen Spry**
Add to formulary **Action: EK**
Add to TLS GREEN **Action: ZTW**
- 9.4 **Aciclovir Agepha 30 mg/g eye ointment** Aciclovir 3% eye ointment, 4.5g-
£45:00
(Only approved treatment for babies and pregnant women)
Proposal first line for treatment of acute herpetic keratitis in children and pregnant women. Second line for adults.
-Approved
Add to antimicrobial guidance **Action: Helen Spry**
Add to formulary **Action: EK**

- Add to TLS GREEN** **Action: ZTW**
- 9.5 **Senshio▼, Ospemifene 60 mg film-coated tablets**, Shionogi 28 - £39.50
 Indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe symptomatic vulvar and vaginal atrophy (VVA) in post-menopausal women who are not candidates for local vaginal oestrogen therapy.
 -Approved
 CB to pass on relevant email address to SM raise with menopause service
- Add to formulary. Not 1st line** **Action: EK**
Add to TLS GREEN on the recommendation of specialist **Action: ZTW**
- 9.6 **Hydrocortisone Oral Solution**, Colonis Pharma Ltd
 Licensed for replacement therapy in adrenal insufficiency in infants, children, and adolescents (from 1 month to <18 years old).
 Drug Tariff special 5mg/5ml_100ml -£20.16, 10mg/5ml_100ml- £15.84
 -Approved
 Best practice to use licensed products
Add to Specials guidance **Action: HB**
Add to formulary **Action: EK**
Add to TLS GREEN **Action: ZTW**
- 9.7 **Zacco 5mg/5ml Oral Suspension** (Clobazam 5mg/5ml oral suspension SF)
 Thame Laboratories, 150ml £90:00
Zacco 10mg/5ml Oral Suspension (Clobazam 10mg/5ml oral suspension SF) Thame Laboratories, 150ml £95:00
 New licensed product, cost-effective option
 -Approved
Add to preferred brands **Action: CT**
- 9.8 **Branded Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops**
 Generic removed from Cat C in drug tariff and now priced against branded. To control costs proposal for these to be the preferred brands:
 - AacuLose Hypromellose 0.3% (10ml) - 71p
 - AproMel 0.3% (10ml) - 69p
 - Lumecare Tear Drops 0.3% (10ml) - 80p
 Better to encourage brand prescribing
 -Approved
Add to preferred brands **Action: CT**
- 9.9 **Thick and Easy Clear powder**, Fresenius Kabi Ltd. 126gm x £6.50
 Food thickener for dysphagia.
 Proposal to revert to Thick and Easy Clear as first line on safety grounds as trust moving over to Thick and Easy Clear powder from November 2022.
 Current choice is Nutilis Clear powder (Nutricia Ltd)

The two products are mixed different and have different scoops which has the potential to make the wrong consistency drink leading to aspiration or dehydration.

Fresenius Kabi, say they have a well-established implementation plan which includes training in the acute trusts, community hospitals and Care Homes as well as provision of resources such as posters and leaflets etc.

-Approved

Add to sip feed guidance

Action: Ezmerelda White

Add to formulary

Action: EK

10 DTC decisions and other reports

10.1 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Mental Health D&TC - Last meeting - 13/09/22, verbal update given

SDB chaired the meeting, and the following were discussed:

- NICE depression guidance:
 - Epival approved for in house use.
 - Risperidone long-acting generic. Not directly equivalent to Risperidal Consta so waiting for information on the paliperidone long-acting injection and cost implications before making any decisions.
 - SM working with Stelios to co-produce brief guidance for management of patients that are pregnant and on mental health medications. SSRIs will be completed first.
- Cariprazine - Scotland and Wales use with restrictions.

10.2 YDH Medicines Committee - last meeting 13/07/22

AP & SM attended, following discussed

- Critical medicines shortage
- Promethazine; pregnancy sickness
- Potassium permanganate
- Renewal of 12 PGDs.

10.3 Somerset NHSFT D&TC - last meeting 29/07/22

Sub-cut furosemide

End of life

10.4 Somerset Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee - Next meeting TBC

10.5 Somerset ICS Medicines Optimisation (SIMO) Committee - Last meeting

Last meeting 15/06/22 draft Minutes received. August meeting cancelled

10.6 Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (Southwest) Last meeting - 12/09/2022

AT attended, the following discussed:

- Green agenda - Somerset was mentioned several times for its great performance
- Genomics & pharmacy - Free training currently available

- Medicines safety-Sam Morris mentioned for the great work on medication in pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Digital transformation
- Glucose monitoring & diabetes network

Part 2 – Items for Information or Noting

11 NICE Guidance July & August

-Noted

12 NICE Technology Appraisals

12.1 [TA810] Abemaciclib with endocrine therapy for adjuvant treatment of hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, node-positive early breast cancer at high risk of recurrence -New

-Approved

NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS **RED** Drug

Action: ZTW

12.2 [TA809] Imlifidase for desensitisation treatment before kidney transplant in people with chronic kidney disease -New

-Approved

NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS **RED** Drug

Action: ZTW

12.3 [TA811] Duvelisib for treating relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia after 2 or more treatments (terminated appraisal)

-Noted

12.4 [TA812] Pralsetinib for treating RET fusion-positive advanced non-small-cell lung cancer - New

- Add to TLS Not Recommended

Action: ZTW

12.5 [TA814] Abrocitinib, tralokinumab or upadacitinib for treating moderate to severe atopic dermatitis - New

-Approved

The technologies for adults are commissioned by ICS

The technologies for adolescents are commissioned by NHSE.

Add to TLS **RED** Drug

Action: ZTW

12.6 [TA813] Asciminib for treating chronic myeloid leukaemia after 2 or more tyrosine kinase inhibitors -New

-Approved

NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS **RED**

Action: ZTW

- 12.7 **[TA817] Nivolumab for adjuvant treatment of invasive urothelial cancer at high risk of recurrence** - New
 -Approved
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.8 **[TA816] Alpelisib with fulvestrant for treating hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, PIK3CA-mutated advanced breast cancer** -New
 -Approved
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.9 **[TA815] Guselkumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis after inadequate response to DMARDs** - Replaces TA711
 -Approved
ICS Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.10 **[TA819] Sacituzumab govitecan for treating unresectable triple-negative advanced breast cancer after 2 or more therapies** - xxx
 -Approved
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.11 **[TA818] Nivolumab with ipilimumab for untreated unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma** - New
 -Approved
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.12 **[TA821] Avalglucosidase alfa for treating Pompe disease** - New
 -Approved
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**
- 12.13 **[TA820] Brolucizumab for treating diabetic macular oedema** -New
 -Approved
ICS Commissioned. Add to TLS RED **Action: ZTW**

Members of the group felt having new and updated guidance brought to their attention via this group was really helpful.

The MMT look at any new medicine's recommendations within NICE guidelines.

AT suggested having one or two people looking at the non-prescribing element and whether, as a group, asking if this happens.

13 NICE Clinical Guidance

- 13.1 **[NG191] COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19** -Updated
 Updated recommendations on using remdesivir in hospital and added a recommendation on vitamin D for treating COVID-19.
 -Noted
- 13.2 **[NG187] COVID-19 rapid guideline: vitamin D** -Updated
 -Noted
- 13.3 **[NG164] COVID-19 rapid guideline: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation** -Updated
 -Noted
- 13.4 **[NG224] Urinary tract infection in under 16s: diagnosis and management**
 - New
 -Noted
To review and update antimicrobial guidance accordingly Action: HS
- 13.5 **[NG14] Melanoma: assessment and management** -Update
 Updated recommendations on genetic testing, staging, surgery for stages 0 to III melanoma, anticancer treatment for people with stage III and IV melanoma, and follow-up.
 -Noted
- 13.6 **[NG209] Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence** -Updated
 Updated recommendations on treating tobacco dependence in the section on stop-smoking interventions for Allen Carr's Easyway.
 Public Health should be looking at this guideline.
 -Noted
- 13.7 **[NG122] Lung cancer: diagnosis and management** -Updated
 Produced new treatment pathways
 -Noted
- 13.8 **[NG161] COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of systemic anticancer treatments** -Updated
 Reviewed the evidence and made new recommendations on shared decision-making.
 -Noted
- 13.9 **[NG17] Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management** - Updated

- Updated recommendations on blood pressure targets
-Noted
- 13.10 **[NG225] Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence** -New
-Noted
- 13.11 **[CG189] Obesity: identification, assessment and management** -Updated
Updated recommendations on identifying and assessing overweight, obesity and central adiposity.
-Noted
- 13.12 **[MTG71] Faecal microbiota transplant for recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection** -New
Cases still cropping up.
-Noted
To pass link to the relevant person **Action: AP**
- 14 Specialist Commissioning**
- 14.1 **To discuss any issues raised by the acute trust**
Specialist commission contract for YDH and SomersetFT was merged in September 2022. The contract will be managed across the two trusts.
- 15 Safety Items, NPSA Alerts and Signals**
- 15.1 **MHRA Drug Safety Update July & August**
-Noted
- 15.2 **Topiramate (Topamax): start of safety review triggered by a study reporting an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children with prenatal exposure**
Used for migraine in a group of people.
Discussed in depth yesterday in the MH DTC meeting about ensuring adequate contraception when on these types of medication and to have that ongoing conversation with patients
-Noted
- 15.3 **Reclassification of Gina (estradiol) 10 microgram vaginal tablets for treatment of vaginal atrophy to Pharmacy (P) medicine**
We will not be moving for self-care in Somerset
-Noted
- 16 High-Cost Drugs**

16.1 To discuss any issues raised by the acute trust with regards to high-cost drugs growth

Data is not flowing through to SG; AP receives data for Yeovil but no data for SomersetFT

Currently block arrangement with the high-cost drugs budget

17 Any Other Business

17.1 Reminder to undertake COI training annually and online Interests Register.

-Noted

JP mentioned that pharmacy contracts are coming to the ICB.

17.2 Any items arising from PAMM not on the agenda

-None

18 Risk review and management

The maternity equity and equality strategy is being edited, reviewed, and written at the moment. Safe prescribing in pregnancy and lactation has been added.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16th November 2022