

Minutes of the **Medicines Programme Board** held via Microsoft Teams, on  
**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

Present:	Dr Andrew Tresidder (AT)	Chair, NHS Somerset GP Patient Safety Lead
	Hels Bennett (HB)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Dr David Davies (DD)	West Somerset Representative
	John Digman (JD)	South Somerset West Representative
	Esther Kubiak (EK)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Florence Lock (FL)	Public Health Specialty Registrar, Somerset County Council
	Sam Morris (SM)	Medicines Manager, NHS Somerset
	Katherine Nicholas	Observer, PCN pharmacist Taunton central
	Dr James Nicholls (JN)	West Mendip Representative
	Laura Picton (LP)	NHS Somerset ICS Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead
	Emma Russell (ER)	CLIC Representative
	Dr Val Sprague (VS)	Bridgwater Representative
	Zoe Talbot-White (ZTW)	Prescribing Technician, NHS Somerset
	Mihaela Tirnoveanu (MT)	Taunton Representative
	Emma Waller (EW)	Yeovil Representative
	Dr Tom While (TW)	Mendip Representative
	Antony Zorzi (AZ)	Associate Director of Pharmacy, SFT
Apologies:	Peter Berman (PB)	Lay Representative
	Bernice Cooke (BC)	Deputy Director Nursing and Inclusion, NHS Somerset
	Mark Dayer (MD)	Consultant cardiologist, SFT
	Shaun Green (SG)	Deputy Director of Clinical Effectiveness and Medicines Management, NHS Somerset
	Andrew Prowse (AP)	Director of Pharmacy, SomersetFT and Yeovil
	Dr Rob Tippin (RT)	LMC Representative
	Fivos Valagiannopoulos (FV)	LPC Representative

## 1 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

AT welcomed everyone to the Medicines Programme Board.

Antony Zorzi, Associate Director of Pharmacy, SFT.  
Laura Picton, NHS Somerset ICS Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead.  
Katherine Nicholas, PCN pharmacist Taunton central, as an observer.

Apologies were provided as above.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

- 4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4.2 Review of action points**

Most items were either complete or, on the agenda.

### **5 Matters Arising**

- 5.1 Optimising personalised care for adults prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms.

a. Report to prevent deaths

b. Feedback from Somerset Council Public Health

Coroners report viewed and noted.

FL will share SDAS protocol with MPB.

MPB discussed:

- Service gaps and the need for a commissioned service.
- The various difficulties felt within primary care, when trying to help patients reduce doses.
- The mental health elements that need addressing before prescribing opioids.
- Changing patient views on analgesics needs to be a national public health focus.
- CLIC PCN sent their health coaches on the living with pain course. They will be offering pain workshops to cohorts of patients. Will update MPB on progress.
- Importance of accurate and up to date patient notes on EMIS. Allows the practice to safeguard patients.

Keep item on agenda.

- 5.2 National primary care clinical pathway for constipation in children.

There are concerns about the national pathway. Normal infant behaviour hasn't been considered for children under 6 weeks, or ages when weaning or potty-training. Also omits Gaviscon use, which can cause constipation.

Trusts were concerned around use of sodium picosulfate as a laxative without clear diagnosis.

Consensus, that we won't be adopting the national pathway.

SM discussing with publishers.

## **6 Other Issues for Discussion**

- 6.1 Joint BMS FSRH RCGP RCOG SfE and RCN Women's Health Forum safety alert  
Seeing an increase in access to menopause services. Higher doses are to be initiated by the specialist and are off-licence. Ensure patient is informed and appropriate notes made on patient records.

Distribute to primary care with a reminder that if going above licensed doses then the HRT product becomes off-licence, and an informed consent discussion should take place. **Action: SG**

- 6.2 Depo-Provera PGD

Routine review and update.

Updates include:

- Formatted for inclusion.
- Further information added for Lactational amenorrhea method (LAM) contraception.
- Caution added for consideration of bone mineral density (BMD) risk benefit assessment, taking into consideration decrease in BMD during pregnancy or lactation

Thanked HB for work on this.

-Approved

Get final sign off and add to website.

**Action: HB**

- 6.3 NHSE: Commissioning recommendations following the national assessment of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets  
Highlights the need for continuity for access to testing strips. Somerset doing well and have good relationship with trust.  
Waiting for feedback from Steve Moore and diabetes team.

- 6.4 National Clinical Guideline for Stroke

Highlighted the new target: Home blood pressure monitoring should be considered for guiding the management of BP-lowering treatment, with a typical home systolic BP target below 125 mmHg.

Large document, more time needed to read and identify changes.

-Noted

## **7 Other Issues for Noting**

- 7.1 BJGP - Withdrawing from SSRI antidepressants: advice for primary care

Discontinuation side effects need to be discussed with patients. Trust has commissioned the choice and medication leaflets which could be sent via accurx to patients. Maudsley guidelines are also a useful resource for GPs.

-Noted

## **8 Additional Communications for Noting**

8.1 Wegovy (semaglutide 2.4mg) for obesity – Email from SG – 22/03/23

-Noted

8.2 Monoprost supply issue - switching advice – Email from SG – 22/03/23

-Noted

8.3 New scorecard indicator 2023 - increasing Ezetimibe use – Email from SG – 30/03/23

-Noted

8.4 Confirmation of the 4 new scorecard indicators for 2023-23 – Email from SG – 03/04/23

-Noted

8.5 Change to scorecard indicator patients on both MDI and DPI Inhaler – Email from SG – 04/04/23

-Noted

8.6 DOACs and potential GI bleeds – Email from SG – 12/04/23

-Noted

8.7 Vit D or calcium and Vit D - Self Care -(including care homes) unless prescribed with a bone sparing agent or for treatment rickets/Osteomalacia – Email from SG – 13/04/23

-Noted

8.8 2023-24 prescribing and quality improvement scorecard – Email from SG – 18/04/23

-Noted

8.9 Melatonin – reminder to review at 3 weeks and deprescribe after a total 13 weeks – Email from Helen Spry – 19/04/23

-Noted

8.10 Haloperidol 0.5mg tablets – Email from SG – 24/04/23

-Noted

## **9 Formulary Applications**

9.1 Proposal to move Bempedoic acid (with ezetimibe) to TLS Green.

Request from Dr Alex Bickerton, Consultant in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Lipids

Proposed TLS change from Amber to Green for patients fulfilling NICE TA694.  
Good outcome data.  
-Approved

Update TLS to **Green**.

**Action: ZTW**

## **10 Reports From Other Meetings Feedback**

### **10.1 Primary Care Network Feedback**

Primary Care Network Feedback

-QOF

-IIF changes

MPB discussed:

- Increased demand, morbidity and late presentation.
- Issues of health anxiety
- Impacts of the cost-of-living crisis
- Impacts of social media

Discuss better use of hypertension referral pathway.

**Action: ER & LP**

Pharmacies are still sending surgeries paper prescription requests. Advise patients to use the NHS app to limit this.

Discuss work around the NHS measures and proving work.

**Action: TW & JD**

### **Summary**

#### **10.2 LPC Report**

Community pharmacy update from LP:

- PSNC workforce survey with associated message about increase in workload. Resulted in statement that there would be no new services until more funding.
- Oral contraceptive service went live on Monday. Pharmacies can choose to opt in. Tier 1 of the service allows for continuation of prescribing for oral contraception without the need for the patient to attend the GP surgery. Some IT updates needed in Somerset. Tier 2 in pilot stage which allows initiation of oral contraceptive.

LPC update from FV:

- Out of stock medications are causing high workloads. WhatsApp is being utilised to try and source stock.
- Regarding closures and changes of ownership, the LPC will be supporting all new owners as these events occur. The main goal is to limit patient impact as much as possible.
- LPC have receive requests around MDS guidance. They have been reminding practices and pharmacies of the agreed guidance.

#### **10.3 LMC Report**

The LMC has concerns around how the funding will be equitable for practices. They have put forward what they believe to be the most appropriate solution and are waiting for the outcome. Will update MPB at the next meeting.

- 10.4 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust D&TC Meeting – Next meeting 19/05/23
- 10.5 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Mental Health D&TC – Next meeting 06/06/23
- 10.6 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Medicines Governance Committee – Next meeting TBC  
The committee has been working to align medicine policies from across the three trusts into one.
- 10.7 South West Medication Safety Officer Network Meeting – Next meeting 06/06/23
- 10.8 Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee South West – Next meeting June 23

## **Part 2 – Items for Information or Noting**

### **11 Current Performance**

- 11.1 High-cost drug budget exception reporting  
To be discussed at the next meeting.

### **12 Rebate Schemes**

- 12.1 BIMl eye drops, Scope Ophthalmics Ltd, commence date: 01/04/23  
-Noted

### **13 Existing NICE Implementation Assurance**

- 13.1 This item is discussed quarterly.

### **14 NICE Technology Appraisals**

- 14.1 [TA876] Nivolumab with chemotherapy for neoadjuvant treatment of resectable non-small-cell lung cancer  
Positive appraisal. This technology is commissioned by NHS England. Providers are NHS hospital trusts.  
-Noted  
Add to TLS **Red. Action: ZTW**
- 14.2 [TA877] Finerenone for treating chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes  
This technology is commissioned by integrated care boards. Providers are primary care services, NHS hospital trusts and tertiary care services  
Agreed as **Amber** at March MPB.  
-Noted
- 14.3 [TA878] Casirivimab plus imdevimab, nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19  
Positive appraisal. These technologies are commissioned by ICB's. Providers are NHS Hospital trusts and primary care.  
Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir) agreed as **Green** at March MPB. Awaiting pathways.  
Casirivimab plus imdevimab, sotrovimab and tocilizumab.

- Add to TLS **Red**. **Action: ZTW**
- 14.4 [TA879] Trastuzumab deruxtecan for treating HER2-positive unresectable or metastatic gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer after anti-HER2 treatment  
Terminated Appraisal  
-Noted  
Add to TLS **Not recommended**. **Action: ZTW**
- 14.5 [TA880] Tezepelumab for treating severe asthma  
Positive appraisal. This technology is commissioned by NHS England. Providers are NHS hospital trusts.  
-Noted  
Add to TLS **Red**. **Action: ZTW**
- 15 NICE Clinical Guidance**
- 15.1 Update - [NG191] COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19  
Updated recommendations:
- baricitinib and remdesivir
  - casirivimab plus imdevimab, nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, and tocilizumab
  - neutralising monoclonal antibodies and sarilumab with recommendations on sotrovimab and tocilizumab
- Noted
- 15.2 Update - [NG101] Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management  
Updated recommendations on arm and shoulder mobility.  
-Noted
- 15.3 Update - [NG133] Hypertension in pregnancy: diagnosis and management  
Updated recommendations on when to offer placental growth factor (PLGF)-based testing for pre-eclampsia.  
Created a series of visual summaries to explain assessment, treatment and other aspects of care for various conditions relating to hypertension in pregnancy.  
-Noted
- 16 Risk Review and Management**
- 16.1 Standing item  
None this month
- 17 Safety Items, NPSA Alerts and Signals**
- 17.1 MHRA Drug Safety Update March
- Pholcodine-containing cough and cold medicines: withdrawal from UK market as a precautionary measure  
-Noted at March MPB
  - Terlipressin: new recommendations to reduce risks of respiratory failure and septic shock in patients with type 1 hepatorenal syndrome  
-Noted

- 17.2 NIHR evidence
- Combination therapy for painful diabetic neuropathy is safe and effective  
-Noted
  - Online support improved eczema symptoms in children and young people  
-Noted.  
Add the link to the eczema support page to the Somerset ICB Dermatology webpage. **Action: SM**
  - Antipsychotics are increasingly prescribed to children and teenagers  
-Noted
- 17.3 CAS and NPSA
- Publication of NICE Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) - Treatment Recommendations for COVID-19  
-Noted
  - Management of National Patient Safety Alerts  
-Noted
- 17.4 March 23 SPS Safety Update Powerpoint
- Discussed coroner reports. Vigilance needed around potential stock holding of dangerous drugs in vulnerable patients.
  - Invaggis supply issues, so consider alternatives.
  - Oxycodone 5mg/5ml wokhardt unavailable, available from other manufactures but they won't be able to support the increase in need.  
-Somerset would recommend Actimorph over Oramorph.  
-Trusts are discouraging use of Oxycodone liquid.
- Noted
- 17.5 Medicine Supply Notifications  
Alfuzosin 10mg m/r tabs  
-Noted
- 18 Any Other Business**
- 18.1 Next Prescribing Leads: 2pm, 11/05/23 via MSTeams  
-Noted

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (SIMO following)  
 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023  
 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (SIMO following)  
 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (SIMO following)  
 25<sup>th</sup> October  
 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (SIMO following)