

Minutes of the **Somerset Prescribing Forum** held via Microsoft Teams, on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

Present:	Dr Andrew Tresidder (AT)	Chair, CCG GP Patient Safety Lead
	Mark Ashley (MA)	Chief Pharmacist, Somerset NHSFT
	Dr Clare Barlow (CB)	Chair D&TC, Somerset NHSFT
	Steve Du Bois (SDB)	Chief Pharmacist, Somerset NHSFT
	Shaun Green (SG)	Deputy Director of Clinical Effectiveness and Medicines Management, CCG
	Sam Morris (SM)	Medicines Manager, CCG
	Jean Perry (JP)	Contracts Manager, NHS Somerset CCG
	Andrew Prowse (AP)	Chief Pharmacist and Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer, YDH NHS FT
	Carla Robinson (CR)	Public Health Registrar, Somerset County Council
	Caroline Taylor (CT)	Prescribing Technician, CCG
Apologies:	Hel's Bennett (HB)	Medicines Manager, CCG
	Dr Orla Dunn (OD)	Public Health Representative
	Michaela Pinkney (MP)	Deputy Clinical Pharmacy Manager, YDH NHSFT
	Donna Yell (DY)	Pharmacoeconomics Lead, YDH NHSFT

## 1 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were provided as detailed above.

Carla Robinson, Public Health Registrar was introduced to the group.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a correct record.

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

Most items were either complete or, on the agenda. The following points were specifically noted:

**Patients prescribed multiple antipsychotics in Primary Care**

**Bring back to January's meeting.**

**Action: CT**

**Resources to support reduction of Hypnotic prescribing**

**To investigate if the SFT NMPs are able to offer their services to primary care.**

**Action: SDB**

**Bring back to Januarys meeting**

**Action: CT**

#### **5 Matters Arising**

5.1

**Lithium carbonate (Priadel®) 200mg and 400mg modified release tablets – Supply Disruption**

The Competition and markets authority (CMA) have taken very welcome action as a result of concerns raised; hopefully a reasonable agreement will be made.

Trusts are trying to pull together data on patients who have been switched, looking at lithium levels pre- and post-switch.

#### **6 Other Issues for Discussion**

6.1

**Specialist Pharmacy Service SPS Covid-19-coronavirus medicines summaries**

Awareness raised with trust Pharmacist colleagues

-Noted

#### **6.2 Prescribing of opioids (total morphine equivalence) charts**

It was agreed to adopt a system point of view and go with the BNF guidance, primary care should be adopting the BNF guidance.

Aware the palliative care team want to continue with their current process.

CB informed the group this item is included on the agenda for Somerset NHSFT D&TC Novembers meeting.

- 6.3 **Guidance for the use of Melatonin in paediatric sleep disorder**  
Currently we do not support adding to formulary for children following MENDS study.  
Prescribing remains with and is the responsibility of the specialists.  
Trusts can make their individual decisions.  
Somerset NHSFT is to review their current pathway.
- 6.4 **Myasthenia Gravis**  
Discuss adding the Myasthenia Gravis indication to both azathioprine and methotrexate SCG – as per attached
- Both approved for adding MG to shared care guidance                      Action: HB**
- 7 **Other Issues for Noting**
- 8 **Additional Communications for Noting**
- 8.1 **DHSC Monthly supply issues updates for Sept, Oct & Nov**  
-Noted
- 8.2 **Osteopenia**  
-Noted
- 8.3 **Oral semaglutide once daily tablets**  
-Noted
- 8.4 **IIF Implementation guidance and CCG baseline position**  
-Noted
- 8.5 **Sept 2020 vs q4 201920 DOAC monitoring**  
-Noted
- 8.6 **Opioid safety leaflet and updated safety advice for prescribers and patients**  
Opportunity to raise patient awareness.  
-Noted
- 8.7 **Prescription Duration**  
National message not to change prescription duration. Also related to issues around the demand for increased prescribing of inhalers for patients who have not had an issue or respiratory review for several years.  
-Noted
- 8.8 **PAMM recommendation concerning Brand to Generic prescribing**  
-Noted

- 8.9 **Eclipse Live SMR Support Tool SMRLive**  
-Noted
- 8.10 **Structured Medication Reviews and medicines optimisation: Guidance for PCNs 2020-21 FINAL**  
-Noted
- 8.11 **Dipstick & link to UTI antibiotics in over 65s - week 35 update**  
Very positive data which has been shared nationally  
-Noted
- 8.12 **Reminder - appliance contractors should not be requesting retrospective prescriptions**  
-Noted
- 8.13 **New Somerset CCG pain webpage**  
-Noted
- 8.14 **FreeStyle Libre 2**  
Freestyle Libre 1 is being discontinued in the new year.  
Freestyle Libre 2 with its additional functionality is included in the Somerset CCG formulary.  
Communication sent by SG to the endocrinologists' so they are aware.  
-Noted
- 8.15 **Updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Community Pharmacies**  
-Noted
- 8.16 **Hypnotics/benzodiazepines, antidepressants (including low dose amitriptyline) and antipsychotics in patients without capacity e.g. Dementia patients**  
Prescribers asked to review the inappropriate prescribing of these drugs on a regular basis, and to consider a reduction processes and pathways in place.  
Patients without capacity would be protected by the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)  
-Noted
- 8.17 **Dipstick & link to UTI antibiotics in over 65s - week 42 update**  
-Noted

## **9 Formulary Applications**

### **9.1 Nilemdo<sup>®</sup> (Bempedoic acid) 180mg film-coated tablets**

Agreed at Oct PAMM TLS NOT RECOMMENDED

-Agreed

### **9.2 Nustendi<sup>®</sup> (Bempedoic acid/Ezetimibe) 180mg/10mg film-coated tablets,**

Agreed at Oct PAMM TLS NOT RECOMMENDED

-Agreed

### **9.3 Vagirux<sup>®</sup> (Estradiol) 10micrograms vaginal tablets**

Agreed at Oct PAMM TLS and formulary **GREEN**

-Agreed

It was highlighted this is a different device, being environmentally better.

### **9.4 Sativex<sup>®</sup> for the treatment of spasticity due to multiple sclerosis**

CB feels there are a very small cohort / group of MS patients who this would be beneficial for.

The CCG sees Sativex<sup>®</sup> as a **RED** drug that requires specialist oversight; all MS patients are managed by specialists'.

CB to take request back to Somerset NHS FT D&TC to take forward within the trust to the medical director.

**To submit a copy of the formulary application to AP who will include in the YDH January's meeting agenda. Action: CB**

**Bring back to Januarys' meeting with updates from all.**

**Add to January agenda Action: CT**

### **9.5 Flash Glucose Monitors – offer to LD patients**

NHS England have approved Freestyle Libre 2 for Type 1 & Type 2 diabetics with LD and autism patients

People with Type 1 diabetes or insulin treated Type 2 diabetes who are living with a learning disability and recorded on their GP Learning Disability register. Approved for this new cohort of patients.

**Add to formulary and TLS GREEN Action: Daniela Wilson/CT**

## **10 DTC decisions and other reports**

### **10.1 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Mental Health D&TC- Next meeting 08/12/20**

-Nothing to note

### **10.2 YDH Medicines Committee - Last meeting 09/09/20 DRAFT Minutes received. Next meeting 06/11/20**

-Noted from September meeting: Audit around methotrexate

-Noted from November meeting: Issuing of IV hydrocortisone in Addison's packs to Addison's disease patients.

**10.3 Somerset NHSFT D&TC - last meeting 24/07/2020 Minutes received  
Next meeting 19/11/20**

-Nothing to note

**10.4 T&S Antimicrobial Prescribing Group – last meeting 12/08/20 Minutes received**

Group re-named as the Somerset Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee  
-Noted

**10.5 Exceptional items from out of area formulary meetings**

Difference from our perspective - BSNNG has Cinacalcet as **AMBER** drug  
NHSE Commissioned.

**10.6 RMOC function on SPS website**

Functionality just getting back up and running. Currently running two consultations. One around retinopathy and one around buprenorphine for addiction. To look at these once finalised.

**11 Part 2 – Items for Information or Noting  
NICE Guidance October and November**

-Noted

**12 NICE Technology Appraisals**

**12.1 [TA648] Dupilumab for treating chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (terminated appraisal)**

-Noted

**TLS terminated appraisal**

**Action: CT**

**12.2 [TA649] Polatuzumab vedotin with rituximab and bendamustine for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma – New**

-Noted. Positive Appraisal  
Approved

**NHSE Commissioned. TLS RED Drug**

**Action: CT**

**12.3 [TA651] Naldemedine for treating opioid-induced constipation –New**

-Noted.

Approved. CCG Commissioned as per NICE guidance

**Add to TLS AMBER Drug**

**Action: CT**

**12.4 [TA650] Pembrolizumab with axitinib for untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma – New**

-Noted. Negative Appraisal. Not recommended.

- TLS Not recommended** **Action: CT**
- 12.5 **[TA652] Alpelisib with fulvestrant for treating hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative, PIK3CA-positive advanced breast cancer (terminated appraisal)**  
 Noted  
**TLS terminated appraisal** **Action: CT**
- 12.6 **[TA653] Osimertinib for treating EGFR T790M mutation-positive advanced non-small-cell lung cancer – New**  
 Noted. Positive Appraisal.  
 Approved  
**NHSE Commissioned. TLS RED Drug** **Action: CT**
- 12.7 **[TA654] Osimertinib for untreated EGFR mutation-positive non-small-cell lung cancer – New**  
 Noted. Positive Appraisal.  
 Approved  
**NHSE Commissioned. TLS RED Drug** **Action: CT**
- 12.8 **[TA655] Nivolumab for advanced squamous non-small-cell lung cancer after chemotherapy –New**  
 Noted. Positive Appraisal.  
 Approved  
**NHSE Commissioned. TLS RED Drug** **Action: CT**
- 13 NICE Clinical Guidance**
- 13.1 **[NG160] COVID-19 rapid guideline: dialysis service delivery - Update**  
 -Noted
- 13.2 **[NG170] COVID-19 rapid guideline: cystic fibrosis - Update**  
 -Noted
- 13.3 **[NG173] COVID-19 rapid guideline: antibiotics for pneumonia in adults in hospital - Update**  
 -Noted
- 13.4 **[NG163] COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing symptoms (including at the end of life) in the community - Update**  
 -Noted
- 13.5 **[NG12] Suspected cancer: recognition and referral -Update**

-Noted

13.6 **[NG59] Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management - Update**

Reviewed the evidence and made new recommendations on pharmacological management for people with sciatica.

-Noted

**Add updated recommendations to formulary. Action: Daniela Wilson**

13.7 **[NG182] Insect bites and stings: antimicrobial prescribing - New**

-Noted

**CCG antimicrobial guidelines to be updated Action: Helen Spry**

13.8 **[CG173] Neuropathic pain in adults: pharmacological management in non-specialist settings -Update**

-Noted

13.9 **[NG100] Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management - Update**

Recommending more dual therapies.

-Noted

13.10 **[NG184] Human and animal bites: antimicrobial prescribing - New**

-Noted.

**CCG antimicrobial guidelines to be updated. Action: Helen Spry**

13.11 **[NG161] COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of systemic anticancer treatments -Update**

CB has already forwarded this information to relevant colleagues

-Noted

13.12 **HST13 Volanesorsen for treating familial chylomicronaemia syndrome - New**

Clarified NHSE commissioning for this treatment for genetic high cholesterol conditions.

-Noted

13.13 **Liraglutide for managing overweight and obesity - final appraisal determination document**

Having discussed the time delay the forum agreed to hold a virtual approval on this item as soon as the TAG is published

13.14 **Upadacitinib for treating severe rheumatoid arthritis [ID1400] - Final appraisal document**



Having discussed the time delay the forum agreed to hold a virtual approval on this item as soon as the TAG is published

## **14 Specialist Commissioning**

### **14.1 Specialised Commissioning decisions**

Raised awareness  
-Noted

### **14.2 Specialist commissioning letters 2020 - summary**

Raises awareness around items that are being produced.  
-Noted

### **14.3 NHS England - Publication Containers: Specialised commissioning**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication> - Specialised commissioning  
-Nothing to note

## **15 PBR excluded drug monitoring**

15.1 T & S – block contract until April 2021

15.2 Yeovil – block contract until April 2021

## **16 Biosimilars**

## **17 Horizon Scanning**

### **17.1 NICE forward planner**

-Noted

### **17.2 SPS New Medicines Newsletter September 2020**

-Noted

## **18 Risk review and management**

### **18.1 Risk review and Management - COVID 19**

Remdesivir and ICU drugs on the risk register around obtaining supplies.  
Primary care has BREXIT on the horizon.  
-Noted

## **19 Safety Items, NPSA Alerts and Signals**

### **19.1 MHRA Drug Safety Update September and October**

-Noted

### **19.2 Opioids: risk of dependence and addiction**

Raised awareness with more information and re-enforcing Somerset CCG position. Somerset CCG has been working on this area for a number of years.

-Noted

19.3 **Transdermal fentanyl patches for non-cancer pain: do not use in opioid-naive patients**

-Noted

19.4 **Methotrexate once-weekly for autoimmune diseases: new measures to reduce risk of fatal overdose due to inadvertent daily instead of weekly dosing**

Raised awareness.

Very good processes in place across Somerset.

-Noted

19.5 **Insulins (all types): risk of cutaneous amyloidosis at injection site**

Reminder

-Noted

19.6 **5-fluorouracil (intravenous), capecitabine, tegafur: DPD testing recommended before initiation to identify patients at increased risk of severe and fatal toxicity**

CB informed the group a robust process is up and running

-Noted

19.7 **Flucytosine (Ancotil): new contraindication in patients with DPD deficiency**

-Noted

19.8 **Niraparib (Zejula ▼): reports of severe hypertension and posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), particularly in early treatment**

CB will raise addressing this issue at Somerset NHSFT D&TC Novembers meeting.

Primary care GPs are informed when a patient is on this medication.

**Inform SG of the outcome following DTC meeting.**

**Action: CB**

19.9 **Dolutegravir (Tivicay, ▼Triumeq▼, Juluca▼): updated advice on increased risk of neural tube defects**

Raising awareness.

-Noted

19.10 **Warfarin and other anticoagulants: monitoring of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Robust processes must be in place when patients are switched.

MA informed the group trust has been implementing this switch.

-Noted

**19.11 Every report counts: report suspected adverse drug reactions and take part in #MedSafetyWeek (2–8 November 2020)**

The CCG encourages practices to report suspected adverse drug reactions via the Yellow Card scheme.

-Noted

**19.12 NIHR Signal: Terminally ill patients and their families often need more help to manage their medicines**

-Noted

**19.13 NIHR Signal: Most patients welcome advice from GPs on changing their behaviour to improve health**

-Noted

**19.14 NIHR Signal: Psychiatric drugs given to children and adolescents have been ranked in order of safety**

-Noted

**19.15 NIHR Signal: Anti-inflammatory drugs do not lift depression in bipolar disorder**

-Noted

**19.16 NIHR Signal: Prozac may be the best treatment for young people with depression – but more research is needed**

-Noted

**20 BNF Changes**

**20.1 BNF Update September and October**

-Noted

**21 Confirm completion of conflicts of interest training**

Group informed the clarification received that COI training needs to be carried out annually.

-Noted

**22 Any Other Business**

**22.1 IPMO Guidance and proposal to hold bi-monthly meetings of the ICS medicines optimisation committee**

Proposal for a medicines optimisation focused sub-group of SPF, which would meet in between SPF meetings to start from February.

The sub-group to include Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians with Trust and LPC representation.

Both trust representatives raised no objection.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

13th January 2021

10th March 2021

12th May 2021

14th July 2021

8th September 2021

10th November 2021