

Minutes of the **Somerset Prescribing Forum** held via Microsoft Teams, on **Wednesday, 10th March 2021**.

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
	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:	Jean Perry (JP)	Contracts Manager, NHS Somerset CCG
	Michaela Pinkney (MP)	Deputy Clinical Pharmacy Manager, YDH NHSFT

1 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were provided as detailed above.

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 11th November 2020 and Interim January 2021

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November and interim January 2021 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 Sativex[®] for the treatment of spasticity due to multiple sclerosis

After discussion, it was agreed CB will raise with trust management at SomersetFT.

To then look at this from who's best placed to assess if the product is working. Also need to ask primary care if they are happy to take over the prescribing - Shared Care.

To bring back to May's meeting

Discuss with trust management

Action: CB

Add to May's agenda

Action: CT

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

CB informed the group that SomersetFT have a Pathway up & running in place.

6 Other Issues for Discussion

6.1 Specialist Pharmacy Service SPS

COVID-19 Medicines Optimisation: Specialty Guidance – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice

-Noted

6.2 Proposal for discussion that system oversight of high cost drug spend moves from SPF to the Somerset ICS Medicines Optimisation Committee from April 2021.

The first SIMO meeting was held in February 2021.

Trust colleagues present agreed and thought it sensible for certain items to devolve from SPF to the SIMO committee.

6.3 Rifaximin for the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy

Following a request, for slight amendments to the current pathway from trust

gastroenterologists, as they feel the pathway is a little restrictive regarding alcohol intake.

SPF agreed to make slight adjustments, noting that alcohol intake would not automatically require repatriation to the specialist as long as alcohol intake isn't disordered and treatment continues to be effective.

It was noted the wording 'Treatment should be discontinued if it is ineffective.

Update current pathway.

Add updated pathway to TLS

Add to CCG website shared care section

Action: HB

Action: ZTW

Action: DW

7 Other Issues for Noting

7.1 DOACs in cancer patient

All in agreeance

-Noted

7.2 Central Alerting System: Lithium Carbonate (Priadel®) 200mg and 400mg Tablets – Supply Disruption Update

-Noted

7.3 Surgery and Opioids: Best Practice Guidelines 2021

New guidance highlighted and shared with trusts.

Positive changes in primary care have already been made, addressing the inappropriate on-going prescribing for discharge opioid medicines.

-Noted

8 Additional Communications for Noting

8.1 DHSC Monthly supply issues updates for February & March

-Noted

8.2 Diabetic Foot checks

-Noted

8.3 Risperidone increase in mortality and cardiovascular events in Dementia

-Noted

8.4 GP movers – what you need to do when prescribers leave or join your practice

-Noted

8.5 Freestyle Libre for LD and autism patients

-Noted

- 8.6 **FLUBLOK: Updated guidance re. 50-64 year olds**
-Noted
- 8.7 **Award – Winner Somerset CCG – Diagnostic Stewardship Antibiotic Guardian Stewardship**
The system wide approach to refrain from dipping urine in older patients has won a National award. This change has been sustained.
-Noted
- 8.8 **At-risk groups to receive free winter supply of vitamin D**
Somerset CCG have a programme in place around moving vitamin D to self-care.
-Noted
- 8.9 **Mixed MDI and dry powder inhaler patients**
Somerset CCG is getting close to being the best in the region on asthma admissions.
-Noted
- 8.10 **DHSC Guidance for general practice in England on accessing DHSC centrally supplied flu vaccines**
-Noted
- 8.11 **Updated resources for local professionals who are supporting people at the end of life**
-Noted
- 8.12 **Dipstick & link to UTI antibiotics in over 65s – week 46 update**
-Noted
- 8.13 **Pneumovax 23 (PPV23) vaccine UPDATE – Supplies are now unavailable until late January 2021**
-Noted
- 8.14 **Dipstick & link to UTI antibiotics in over 65s - week 52 update**
-Noted
- 8.15 **Cancard – cannabis**
-Noted
- 8.16 **Good news - reduced mortality from Asthma**

-Noted

8.17 **Freestyle Libre 2**

-Noted

8.18 **Dipstick & link to UTI antibiotics in over 65s - week 55 update**

-Noted

8.19 **Monthly Supply Issues Update February 2021**

-Noted

8.20 **Updated B12 guidance - Pernicious anaemia**

Highlighted an escalation in the prescribing of oral formulation rather than injections during the pandemic. Practices have been asked to review the indication for prescribing B12, its thought patients should have moved across to 1mg tablets rather than 50 micrograms.

-Noted

8.21 **Identifying and treating familial hypercholesterolaemia patients**

Southmead Hospital, Bristol now commissioned for genetic testing and has a centre for diagnosing FH.

-Noted

8.22 **Antimicrobial prescribing 2020-21 Q3 update**

-Noted

8.23 **2021 - New scorecard indicators**

Discussed the four new proposed indicators. No objections raised.

-Noted

8.24 **Cardiovascular disease prevention pack**

Public Health also has this as a priority area.

Discussion ensued opportunistic diagnosis of AF will have decreased with reduced patient contact.

-Noted

8.25 **Diabetics prescribed Oramorph**

Highlighted again, the sugar, alcohol and morphine content and harm caused in this cohort of patients.

-Noted

9 **Formulary Applications**

- 9.1 **TRULICITY**(Dulaglutide) **3mg/0.5ml solution for injection in pre-filled pens and TRULICITY** (Dulaglutide) **4.5mg/0.5ml solution for injection in pre-filled pens**

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary & TLS **GREEN**

Approved

- 9.2 **Desizon[®] (Zonisamide) 20 mg/ml oral suspension**, Desitin Pharma Ltd. Agreed at February PAMM, as a recommendation over the unlicensed special. Added to Somerset CCG, Specials guidance

-Approved Shared Care **AMBER**

Add to TLS **AMBER drug**

The specials guidance will be updated in due course.

Action: ZTW

Action: HB

- 9.3 **Tadalafil 5mg tablets** once daily for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). Approved at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust D&TC.

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary and TLS **GREEN**. CCG Commissioned

Approved

-Noted

- 9.4 **Trixeo Aerosphere[®] 5 micrograms/7.2 micrograms/160 micrograms pressurised inhalation, suspension**, AstraZeneca UK Limited..

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary

Approved

- 9.5 **Bevespi Aerosphere[®] 7.2 micrograms/5 micrograms pressurised inhalation, suspension**, AstraZeneca UK Limited.

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary

Approved

- 9.6 **Aectura Breezhaler[®]**, Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd.

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary
Approved

9.7 **Energair Breezhaler[®] 114 micrograms/46 micrograms/136 micrograms inhalation powder, hard capsules**, Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd.

Agreed at February PAMM. Added to formulary
Approved

9.8 **Fixkoh Airmaster[®]** Salmeterol/Fluticasone inhalation powder, pre-dispensed, Thornton & Ross Ltd.

Approved

Add to formulary
Update VENN diagram

Action: DW
Action: CT

9.9 **Dalonev[®]** (Calcipotriol/Betamethasone) 50 micrograms/g + 0.5 mg/g ointment, Mibe Pharma UK Limited.

Approved

Add to formulary

Action: DW

10 DTC decisions and other reports

10.1 **Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Mental Health D&TC-** Last meeting 09/03/21 SM attended

Discussed benzodiazepines – particularly lorazepam with strength, upon discharge with diazepam. Huge amounts of discharge with no onwards plan so can GPs please feedback any incomplete discharge summaries with benzos particularly with elderly frail patients to SJM so she can feed back.

Discussed audit from LD patients with antipsychotics. Awaiting them to share findings with us. Found 1 pt out of 100 who hadn't had 6 week follow up which they believe to have been initiated by 1 care.

Discussion around perinatal mental health

Esketamine has had a negative appraisal from NICE, the company have appealed this. The consultation ended in September 2020. The MH team are exploring this treatment option for a very small cohort of patients with at least two other treatment failures and hospitalisations. It was noted in the meeting the CCG would await NICE's response.

10.2 **YDH Medicines Committee -**

Last meeting 08/01/2021-Draft Minutes received. Next meeting 12/03/21

Follow up after

10.3 **Somerset NHSFT D&TC**

November's and December meeting minutes received

Key points shared by CB included requests for the following:

Ceftaroline - agree on consultant microbiologist advice
Gardasil for warts – Sexual Health

- 10.4 **MPH D&TC** – Last meeting 19/11/20 – Minutes not received
- 10.5 **Somerset Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee** - Last meeting 11/11/2020 – Minutes received
- 10.6 **Somerset ICS Medicines Optimisation (SIMO) Committee** -Last meeting 10/02/2021- Draft Minutes received
- 10.7 **Exceptional items from out of area formulary meetings**
-None Raised
- 10.8 **RMOC function on SPS website**
-Regionally focusing on Covid related issues

Part 2 – Items for Information or Noting

- 11 **NICE Guidance December, January & February**
-Noted
- 12 **NICE Technology Appraisals**
 - 12.1 **[TA670] Brigatinib for ALK-positive advanced non-small-cell lung cancer that has not been previously treated with an ALK inhibitor - New NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED Drug** **Action: ZTW**
 - 12.2 **[TA669] Trifluridine–tipiracil for treating metastatic gastric cancer or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma after 2 or more therapies -New**
Add to TLS Not Recommended. **Action: ZTW**
 - 12.3 **[TA672] Brolucizumab for treating wet age-related macular degeneration - New**
Approved pre SPF as per NICE for 1st March
Aflibercept, intravitreal Eylea® Red As an alternative to Ranibizumab for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. Approved by SPF (Jan-13.)
For treating visual impairment caused by macular oedema secondary to central retinal vein occlusion.
For treating visual impairment caused by macular oedema after branch retinal vein occlusion. Somerset approved commissioning.
For treating choroidal neovascularisation, CCG commissioned, according to NICE.
CCG Commissioned. Add to TLS RED Drug **Action: ZTW**

- 12.4 **[TA671] Mepolizumab for treating severe eosinophilic asthma -New
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED Drug Action: ZTW**
- 12.5 **[TA185] Trabectedin for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma
-Updated
-Noted**
- 12.6 **[TA675] Vernakalant for the rapid conversion of recent onset atrial
fibrillation to sinus rhythm (terminated appraisal)
Terminated appraisal Action: ZTW**
- 12.7 **[TA674] Pembrolizumab for untreated PD-L1-positive, locally advanced
or metastatic urothelial cancer when cisplatin is unsuitable (terminated
appraisal)
Terminated Appraisal. Action: ZTW**
- 12.8 **[TA673] Niraparib for maintenance treatment of advanced ovarian,
fallopian tube and peritoneal cancer after response to first-line
platinum-based chemotherapy -New
Within the Cancer Drugs Fund
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED Drug Action: ZTW**
- 12.9 **[TA679] Dapagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with reduced
ejection fraction -New
Commissioned by CCG. Already added to TLS GREEN drug.
-Approved**
- 12.10 **[TA678] Omalizumab for treating chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal
polyps (terminated appraisal)
Terminated Appraisal. Action: ZTW**
- 12.11 **[TA677] Autologous anti-CD19-transduced CD3+ cells for treating
relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma – New
Within the Cancer Drugs Fund
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug Action: ZTW**
- 12.12 **[TA676] Filgotinib for treating moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis -
New
Approved per the criteria set by NICE in TAG 676.**

- CCG Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug. Action: ZTW**
- 12.13 **[TA680] Lenalidomide maintenance treatment after an autologous stem cell transplant for newly diagnosed multiple myeloma – New**
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug Action: ZTW
- 12.14 **[TA681] Baricitinib for treating moderate to severe atopic dermatitis - New**
CCG Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug Action: ZTW
- 12.15 **[HST14] Metreleptin for treating lipodystrophy - New**
 -Noted
- 12.16 **[TA682] Erenumab for preventing migraine -New**
CCG Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug Action: ZTW
- 12.17 **[TA683] Pembrolizumab with pemetrexed and platinum chemotherapy for untreated, metastatic, non-squamous non-small-cell lung cancer – New**
NHSE Commissioned. Add to TLS RED drug Action: ZTW
- 13 NICE Clinical Guidance**
- 13.1 **[NG99] Brain tumours (primary) and brain metastases in adults - Updated**
 -Noted
- 13.2 **[NG12] Suspected cancer: recognition and referral - Updated**
 -Noted
- 13.3 **[NG162] COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of radiotherapy- Updated**
 -Noted
- 13.4 **[NG161] COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of systemic anticancer treatments - Updated**
 -Noted
- 13.5 **[NG159] COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care in adults - Updated**
 -Noted
- 13.6 **[NG164] COVID-19 rapid guideline: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation- Updated**

- Noted
- 13.7 **[NG189] Safeguarding adults in care homes - New**
-Noted
- 13.8 **[NG190] Secondary bacterial infection of eczema and other common skin conditions: antimicrobial prescribing - New**
-Noted
Review this guidance and discuss with Microbiology before updating the primary care guidance. **Action: HS**
- 13.9 **[CG57] Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management - Updated**
-Noted
Reminder that based on current evidence, emollient bath additives and shower preparations are non-formulary.
- 14 Specialist Commissioning**
- 14.1 **Specialised Commissioning decisions**
Awareness raised
-Noted
- 14.2 **Specialist commissioning**
-Noted
- 15 PBR excluded drug monitoring**
This item will devolve from SPF and sit with SIMO
-Noted
- 15.1 T & S
- 15.2 Yeovil
- 16 Biosimilars**
This item will devolve from SPF and sit with SIMO
-Noted
- 17 Horizon Scanning**
- 17.1 **NICE forward planner**
-Noted
2021-2022 NICE Guidance in development
- Noted

- 17.2 **SPS New Medicines Newsletter January 2021**
-Noted
- 18 Risk review and management**
- 18.1 **Risk review and Management - COVID 19**
The trusts were congratulated on their excellent work
-Noted
- 19 Safety Items, NPSA Alerts and Signals**
- 19.1 **MHRA Drug Safety Update November, December, January, February**
-Noted
- 19.2 **Changes to MHRA Drug alert titles and categories**
-Noted
- 19.3 **Modafinil (Provigil): increased risk of congenital malformations if used during pregnancy**
-Noted
- 19.4 **Bupropion (Zyban): risk of serotonin syndrome with use with other serotonergic drugs**
-Noted
- 19.5 **Isotretinoin (Roaccutane ▼): contribute to expert review**
-Noted
- 19.6 **Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject▼): risk of symptomatic hypophosphataemia leading to osteomalacia and fractures**
-Noted
- 19.7 **Pirfenidone (Esbriet): risk of serious liver injury; updated advice on liver function testing**
-Noted
- 19.8 **Systemic and inhaled fluoroquinolones: small risk of heart valve regurgitation; consider other therapeutic options first in patients at risk**
-Noted
- 19.9 **Erythromycin: caution required due to cardiac risks (QT interval prolongation); drug interaction with rivaroxaban**
-Noted
- 19.10 **Erythromycin: update on known risk of infantile hypertrophic pyloric**

- stenosis**
-Noted
- 19.11 **Antiepileptic drugs in pregnancy: updated advice following comprehensive safety review**
-Noted
- 19.12 **SSRI/SNRI antidepressant medicines: small increased risk of postpartum haemorrhage when used in the month before delivery**
-Noted
- 19.13 **Dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera): updated advice on the risk of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) associated with mild lymphopenia**
-Noted
- 19.14 **Fingolimod (Gilenya[▼]): updated advice about the risks of serious liver injury and herpes meningoencephalitis**
-Noted
- 19.15 **Aminoglycosides (gentamicin, amikacin, tobramycin, and neomycin): increased risk of deafness in patients with mitochondrial mutations**
-Noted
- 19.16 **Ulipristal acetate 5mg (Esmya): further restrictions due to risk of serious liver injury**
-Noted
- 19.17 **Pregabalin (Lyrica): reports of severe respiratory depression**
-Noted
- 19.18 **Alkindi (hydrocortisone granules): risk of acute adrenal insufficiency in children when switching from hydrocortisone tablet formulations to granules**
-Noted
- 19.19 **COVID-19 vaccines and medicines: updates for February 2021**
-Noted
- 19.20 **Thalidomide 50mg hard capsules: Pregnancy Prevention Programme to minimise the risk of teratogenicity**
-Noted

- 19.21 **NIHR Signal: Supported self-management for people with asthma is the most effective model of care**
-Noted
- 19.22 **NIHR Signal: Addressing misconceptions about eczema could help people manage their condition over the long term**
-Noted
- 19.23 **NIHR Signal: People with dementia from ethnic minority backgrounds face extra barriers in accessing care**
-Noted
- 19.24 **NIHR Signal: Care home residents on multiple medications have an increased risk of falling**
-Noted
- 19.25 **NIHR Signal: Managing medication: older people and their families need support to deal with the hidden burden of medication**
-Noted
- 19.26 **NIHR Signal: Teenagers' use of antidepressants is rising with variations across regions and ethnic groups**
-Noted
- 19.27 **NIHR Signal: Missed miscarriage should be treated with mifepristone plus misoprostol rather than misoprostol alone**
-Noted
- 19.28 **NIHR Signal: Ongoing pain after knee replacement: people need support and encouragement to seek help**
-Noted
- 19.29 **NIHR Signal: Spironolactone is not an effective treatment for one type of irregular heartbeat, research shows**
-Noted
- 19.30 **NIHR Signal: People with diabetes with a low risk of developing foot ulcers can be screened less often, study suggests**
-Noted
- 19.31 **NIHR Signal: Aspirin could reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke in people with pneumonia, research suggests**

-Noted

19.32 **NIHR Signal: Older people move safely from hospital to home when staff communicate widely and bridge gaps in the system**

-Noted

19.33 **NIHR Signal: Lockdown raised anxiety in people with anorexia and their carers, but online resources helped**

-Noted

19.34 **NIHR Signal: Pregnancy loss leads to post-traumatic stress in one in three women**

-Noted

20 BNF Changes

20.1 **BNF Update**

Stressed the importance of using the up to date electronic version

-Noted

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

Clarification received, COI training needs to be carried out annually.

-Noted

22 Any Other Business

22.1

Members were asked to give feedback to Shaun expressing their thoughts around the content and value for items included on the agenda. **Action: All**

22.2

MA informed the group that he will be retiring in June 2021. It is not known yet who will be Mark's successor.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

12th May 2021

14th July 2021

8th September 2021

10th November 2021