

Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Chairman's Report

The Area Prescribing Committee was established in March 2011.

In the last twelve months it has been augmented by the addition of representation from Public Health from County Durham Local Authority and will be further augmented with representation from Darlington Local Authority in the near future.

The participating organisations have continued to work together to address their shared agenda.



Dr Ian Davidson
Director of Quality and Safety
North Durham CCG
Area Prescribing Committee Chair

Meeting Attendance

The County Durham and Darlington APC serves the following participating organisations:

- NHS Darlington CCG
- North Durham CCG
- NHS Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield CCG
- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- County Durham Local Authority

Membership of the APC comprises a wide variety of professional, clinical, commissioning, managerial and organisational backgrounds. A full list of members is published on the County Durham & Darlington APC webpage at:

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/committees/durham-darlington-committees/>

The full terms of reference of the committee can be found on the same website:

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/committees/durham-darlington-committees/>

The committee meets in Durham on a bi-monthly basis, with meetings occurring on the third Tuesday of every other month and between April 2014 and March 2015 the Committee met six times.

Ratified Documents

Guidelines:

- Dosulepin (May 2014)
- Glucose Monitoring Guidelines
- Osteoporosis (July 2014)
- Clozapine Guidance for GPs (Sept 2014)
- Atrial Fibrillation (March 2015)
- Lipid Modification in Primary Care (March 2015)

Shared Care Guidelines:

- Lithium (July 2014)
- Cinacalcet (July 2014)
- Modafinil (Jan 2015)
- Melatonin (March 2015)
- Riluzole (March 2015)
- Apomorphine (March 2015)

Other:

- Grey List (Sept 2014)
- Domperidone Memo (Jan 2015)
- Drugs and Driving (Jan 2015)
- Pathway for Management of 1st Suspected Seizure in Primary Care (Jan 2015)

New Drug Applications Considered

- Jext® adrenaline autoinjector – approved May 2014
- Beclometasone/formoterol (Fostair®) - approved May 2014
- Levonorgestrel (Jaydess® - approved July 2014
- Brimonidine (Mirvaso®) – rejected July 2014

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- Rifampicin/isoniazid/pyrazinamide/ethambutol (Voractiv®) - approved July 2014
- Lubiprostone – approved Sept 2014

Subgroups

Formulary Subgroup

The formulary subgroup comprises of representatives from each of the local CCGs, TEWV, CDDFT and the Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre. It has met monthly throughout 2014-15 to progress the work of the group and the APC.

It continues to develop and maintain the joint County Durham & Darlington Formulary which can be found at:

<http://formulary.cdd.nhs.uk/>

To underpin the formulary, the group has developed robust systems and processes for the approval of new drugs to maximise benefit for patients.

With the support of the RDTCC regular horizon scanning is undertaken, and compliance with NICE Technology Appraisals and Northern Treatment Advisory Group recommendation is ensured. The group also updates the formulary with MHRA Drug Safety Updates as necessary.

Associated Committees

The APC has close links with other committees in order to foster an integrated approach to developing guidance and advice on medicines related issues. These groups include:

- Local Primary Care Prescribing Groups
- CDDFT Clinical Standards & Therapeutics Committee
- TEWV Drug & Therapeutics Committee

Communication

The North of England Commissioning Support Unit, Medicines Optimisation Website contains a section for the APC:

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/committees/durham-darlington-committees/>

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/guidelines/durham-darlington-guidelines/>

The website was developed to improve communication and make key documents more accessible to stakeholders and has open access for prescribing guidelines, APC minutes and key documents, All prescribing guidelines, shared care guidelines and prescribing memos ratified by the committee are available on the website.

APC decisions and feedback is a standing agenda item on TEWV's Drug and Therapeutics Committee agenda. Prescribing decisions and agreements are disseminated throughout TEWV via the Safe and Effective Medicines Bulletins.

Plans for the future

- To continue to develop robust systems and processes for formulary applications, to include, financial and contracting approval of new drugs to maximise benefits for patients.
- To continue to develop and maintain the County Durham & Darlington Joint Formulary.
- To continue to maintain an effective Area Prescribing Committee that proactively delivers safe and efficient use of medicines within the County Durham and Darlington health economy.
- To continue to positively engage with Clinical Commissioning Groups and other partner organisations, to promote the work of the Area Prescribing Committee, and the Joint Formulary.