

County Durham and Darlington Drug and Therapeutics Committee Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Chairman's Report

The Drug and Therapeutics Committee was established following the merger of five County Durham PCTs with on-going support for Darlington as a PCT in its own right.

I am pleased to be able to report how successfully the D&T has continued to operate during 12/13 despite on-going reconfiguration, and I have been impressed by the level of engagement and enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone involved.

Toward the end of this period the D&T revised its TOR in order to meet the needs of the emerging CCGs and as a result the Drug and Therapeutics Committee became a Clinical Advisory group.

The D&T has continued to support the Area Prescribing Committee which deals with topics which cross the primary care interface, leaving the D&T to focus on primary care issues and supporting the developing Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The D&T brings together senior primary care clinicians with pharmacists and nurses to provide a forum to discuss local prescribing and medicines optimisation matters. As a result it is well placed to play an important role in this and with its experience and track record I am sure CCG groups will find it an invaluable resource.



Dr Ian Davidson
NHS County Durham & Darlington
Drug and Therapeutics Committee Chair

Meeting Attendance

The County Durham and Darlington Drug and Therapeutics Committee serves the local population and has input from the secondary care sector including:

- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)

Primary Care is well represented with GP Prescribing Leads from each CCG in County Durham and Darlington playing an active role in the committee and its functions. In addition to this, membership includes representatives from Nursing, The Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre, and others from a wide variety of professional, clinical, commissioning, and managerial and organisational backgrounds.

The full terms of reference of the committee can be found on the NHS County Durham and Darlington website at:

http://www.cddmedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/documents/Drug_and_Therapeutics_Committee/Documents/DT_Terms_of_Reference_Dec_2011.pdf

The committee meets in Durham on a bi-monthly basis, with meetings occurring on the third Tuesday of every other month and between March 2012 and March 2013 the Committee met six times.

Successes

The agenda for the D&T is always full meaning keeping within the two and a half hour schedule is a challenge and this year there have been a number of successes:

Developing Primary Care Guidelines:

- Gluten Free Food Guidelines
- Working with the Pharmaceutical Industry
- Hypertension
- Drug Monitoring

Developing Guidelines with Secondary Care:

- Antibiotic Guidelines
- Vitamin D Supplementation
- Enoxoparin prescribing responsibilities

Governance:

- Regular review of national best practice (i.e. NICE, MHRA safety alerts)
- Reviewing antibiotic use in light of C.diff cases

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- Monitored the financial performance of the prescribing budget.
- Working with the smoking cessation team to ensure varenicline recommendations and prescribing remain safe.
- Reviewing audits of Urgent Care Centre Antibiotic prescribing
- Approving revised community medication charts
- Advising on the development of a new DVT pilot pathway

Other:

- Horizon scanning with the RDTTC
- Supporting the change from Diamorphine to Morphine for Palliative Care Patients
- Developing a prescribing incentive scheme
- Producing a prescribing dilemmas guide
- Monitoring the use of ScriptSwitch
- Continuing to work with Community Pharmacies via their LPC representative on the Committee.
- Overseeing the MM QOF indicators process for 12/13
- Reviewing and recommending various rebate schemes where appropriate
- Approving the CCG delivery plan insert for medicines management
- Reviewing the D&T TOR in light of NHS organisational changes

Associated Committees

The D&T 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 Prescribing Groups
- Area Prescribing Committee
- Formulary Steering Group
- Other secondary care prescribing groups

Communication

Communication of the activities of the D&T is by a number of means and this follows the Medicines Management Communications Strategy.

One of the most effective methods of communication has been the website for NHS County Durham and Darlington Medicines Management team:

<http://www.cddmedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/>

This was launched in November 2011 with a section for the Drug and Therapeutics Committee:

<http://www.cddmedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/index.php/d-t/about-the-d-t>

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

The NHS County Durham and Darlington Prescribing Matters Newsletter contains updates on D&T decisions and is sent to all primary care practitioners in County Durham and Darlington on a bi-monthly basis.

Plans for the future

The D&T has played an important role in medicines management in County Durham and Darlington for a number of years and hopefully for many years to come. With NHS reconfiguration however the role of the D&T has changes in order to fulfil its function as a Clinical Advisory Group to CCGs. In light of this the D&T Terms of reference were revised at the start of 2013 to reflect this new role.

Despite this, the D&T work plan continues to roll forward with schedule of work for 2013/2014 including the following topics:

- DMARD Guidance
- Osteoporosis
- Agreeing Med Man education topics
- Reviewing guidelines where needed
- 2nd year of Prescribing Incentive Scheme