

County Durham and Darlington Drug and Therapeutic Clinical Advisory Group Annual Report 2013 - 2014

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present the first annual report of the County Durham and Darlington Drug and Therapeutic Clinical Advisory Group.

Before the NHS re-organisation, the D&T revised its terms of reference and consulted widely to establish its role within the new structures and as a result the Drug and Therapeutics Committee became a Clinical Advisory Group and in this format has supported North Durham, DDES and Darlington CCGs over the past 12 months.

Despite the changing NHS 'landscape' I continue to be impressed by the level of engagement and enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone involved.

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.

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



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

Meeting Attendance

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

Primary Care is well represented with GP Prescribing Leads and Pharmacists 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, Local Pharmaceutical

Committee and others from a wide variety of professional, clinical, commissioning, and managerial and organisational backgrounds.

The successful functioning of the CAG is dependent on the support and direction of the MO Team of North of England Commissioning Support.

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

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

The CAG meets in Durham on a bi-monthly basis, with meetings occurring on the third Tuesday of every other month and between April 2013 and March 2014 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:

- Nutritional supplements pathway
- Glucose test strip guideline and implementation plan

Developing Guidelines with Secondary Care:

- Osteoporosis guidelines in light of MHRA guidance
- Antibiotic Guidelines
- DMARD Guidance
- Wound Dressing guide and order form
- Lipid Guidelines
- Vitamin D Guidelines

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 including the effect of patent expiries
- Reviewing audits of Urgent Care Centre Antibiotic prescribing
- Reviewing outcome of a new DVT pilot pathway
- Developing an action plan relating to the UK 5year Antimicrobial Strategy.
- Reviewing reports relating to community acquired C. diff
- Discussing issues related to Dosulepin prescribing and considering guidance.
- Developing QIPP initiatives such as recommending low cost first line oral nutritional supplements, and recommending cost effective glucose testing meters

Other:

- Horizon scanning with the RDTC
- Reviewing drug use and uptake of the Minor Ailments Scheme
- Developing and monitoring a prescribing incentive scheme
- Monitoring and reviewing the use of prescribing support software and considering alternatives to Scriptswitch.
- Continuing to work with Community Pharmacies via their LPC representative on the Committee.
- Supporting a HSJ Award application, which was shortlisted, covering reducing broad-spectrum antibiotic prescribing
- Forming a working group looking at the management of compliance aids
- Discussing draft COPD guidelines

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
- Diabetes CAG

Communication

The well-established Medicine Management website is regularly reviewed and updated to promote Medicines issues.

This current website can be found here:

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

Over the course of 2014 a revised website will be piloted:

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/>

Consideration will be given to gradually moving over to this during 2014.

Key points raised by the D&T CAG are notified to practices in a newsletter which contains updates on D&T decisions and is sent to all primary care practitioners in County Durham and Darlington.

In addition to this any urgent messages are relayed to practices via prescribing memos.

There has also been extensive work to make a suite of prescribing reports available via RAIDR

Plans for the future

The D&T work plan continues to roll forward with schedule of work for 2014/2015 including the following topics:

- Programme of guideline review
- Joint North of England Antibiotic Guideline
- Review of prescribing support systems ie ScriptSwitch
- Promotion of the County Durham and Darlington Formulary to primary care clinicians
- Prescribing Incentive Scheme promotion and monitoring.
- Further developing the Prescribing Dashboard on RAIDR
- Supporting training events

