

# Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report 2015 - 2016

## Chairman's Report

The Area Prescribing Committee has now been established for five years.

It continues to be well attended by representatives from all member organisations who to work together to address their shared agenda.

It has an established position of influence and authority on medicine related issues throughout the local health economy.




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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 & Sedgfield CCG
- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- County Durham Local Authority
- Darlington 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.necu.nhs.uk/committees/durham-darlington-committees/>

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

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

The committee meets in Durham on a bi-monthly basis, with meetings occurring on the first Thursday of every other month and between April 2015 and March 2016 the Committee met six times.

All APC and its sub-group members complete a Declarations of Interest Form on an annual basis and update the chair on any potential conflicts of interest at each meeting.

## Ratified Documents

### Guidelines:

- Overactive Bladder Drug Pathway (May 2015)
- Diagnosing & Managing Cows Milk Protein Allergy and Lactose Intolerance (May 2015)
- Hyperprolactinemia (Jul 2015)
- COPD (Jul 2015)
- Vitamin D (Jul 2015)
- Gluten-free Prescribing (Sep 2015)
- Deep Vein Thrombosis Pathway (Sep 2015)
- Asthma (Nov 2015)
- Gender Dysphoria Regional Guidelines (Nov 2015)

### Shared Care Guidelines:

- Methotrexate (January 2016)

### Other:

- Shared Care Protocol Template – updated (May 2015)
- Lipid Guidelines – Lifestyle advice (Jul 2015)
- Emollients Formulary – reviewed (Sep 2015)
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy Formulary – reviewed (Sep 2015)
- Drugs for Alcohol Dependence and 3-way agreement (Nov 2015)
- Drug Monitoring Document (Dec 2015)
- Psychotropic Prescribing – Peri-pregnancy and women of child bearing age (Jan 2016)
- Effects of Stopping Smoking on Mental Health Drugs (Jan 2016)

## New Drug Applications Considered

- Umeclidinium inhaler – approved July 2015

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- Dualkir Genuair® - approved July 2015
- Anoro Ellipta® - approved July 2015
- Ultibro Breezhaler® – approved July 2015
- Duoresp Spiromax® – approved July 2015
- Dexmedetomidine – approved Sept 2015
- Quickmist® Nicotine Spray – approved Sept 2015
- Sirdupla® inhaler – approved Nov 2015
- Fostair Nexthaler® - approved Nov 2015
- Dulaglutide – approved Jan 2016

## 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 on alternate months throughout 2015-16 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 RDTC 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

- Regional Medicine Optimisation Committees. The Chief Pharmacist is proposing the development of the 4 Regional MO Committees in England. The APC chair is contributing to discussions on these proposals and the APC role may change if and when these proposals progress.
- 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 work on implementing NICE NG5-Medicines Optimisation locally and addressing any locally identified gaps/risks.