

Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Chairman's Report

The Area Prescribing Committee has now been established for seven 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.



Dr Ian Davidson
Medical Director
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. Between April 2017 and March 2018 the Committee met five 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:

- Transanal Irrigation (May 2017)
- Opioid Prescribing for Persistent (Non-Cancer) Pain in Adults (Sept 2017)
- Pharmacological Treatment of Neuropathic Pain (Sept 2017)
- Erectile Dysfunction (Sept 2017)
- Gluten-free Prescribing (Sept 2017)
- Nutritional Supplements in Adults (Jan 2018)
- Emollient Prescribing (Jan 2018)

Shared Care Guidelines:

- Atomoxetine (July 2017)
- Methylphenidate (July 2017)
- Lithium (September 2017)
- Apomorphine (November 2017)
- Azathioprine (November 2017)
- 6-Mercaptopurine (November 2017)
- Ciclosporin (November 2017)
- Hydroxychloroquine (November 2017)
- Leflunomide (November 2017)
- Mycophenolate (November 2017)
- Sulfasalazine (November 2017)

Other:

- CD&D Drug Monitoring Document –reviewed and updated
- Adult Vitamin D – Quick Reference Guide (Sep 2017)
- Patient Decision Aids Resource (Sep 2017)
- Colomycin nebulised leaflet for GPs
- Promazine de-prescribing guidance

Area Prescribing Committee

Annual Report

2017 - 2018

New Drug Applications Considered

- Desmopressin acetate oral lyophilisate – approved May 2017
- Carbocysteine sachets – approved May 2017
- Strontium – removed from formulary July 2017
- Retigabine – removed from formulary July 2017
- Polyhexamethylene biguanide eye drops – approved Nov 2017
- Ulipristal acetate for intermittent use in uterine fibroids – approved Nov 2017
- Insulin degludec 100iu/ml for paediatrics – approved Nov 2017
- Freestyle Libre – approved Nov/Dec 2017
- Colifoam® - removed from formulary Jan 2018
- Invicorp® - approved Jan 2018
- Epiduo® gel – approved Jan 2018
- Budesonide rectal foam – approved Jan 2018
- Ultrabase cream – approved Jan 2018

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 2017-18 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/>

The new format of the formulary website was successfully launched in April 2017.

With the support of the RDTC regular horizon scanning is undertaken, and compliance with NICE Technology Appraisals, RMOG and Northern Treatment Advisory Group recommendations 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
- Local High Cost Drugs Subgroup
- NE&C CCG Prescribing Forum
- NTAG
- Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (North)

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 maintain an effective Area Prescribing Committee that proactively delivers safe and efficient use of medicines within County Durham and Darlington.
- To investigate joint working across a wider geographic footprint with colleagues from South Tees and North Tees and Hartlepool.