

Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

Chairman's Report

This is the second annual report of the County Durham & Tees Valley Area Prescribing Committee.

The APC has continued to be well attended by representatives from all member organisations who continue to work together to address their shared agenda.

The APC has established itself as a position of influence and authority on medicine related issues throughout the local health economy across County Durham and Tees Valley. The APC will also continue to work with North Yorkshire CCG to help maximize/optimize consistency for the North Yorkshire population served by South Tees NHS Foundation Trust.

During 2020/21 the APC has continued to meet regularly but has moved to virtual meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee has developed policies to support the work locally within the NHS to tackle the pandemic.



Dr Ian Davidson
Medical Director, NHS County Durham CCG
Area Prescribing Committee Chair

Meeting Attendance

The County Durham & Tees Valley APC serves the following participating organisations:

- NHS County Durham CCG
- NHS Tees Valley CCG
- North Yorkshire CCG
- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)
- North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- County Durham Local Authority
- Darlington Local Authority
- Hartlepool Local Authority
- Middlesbrough Local Authority
- Redcar & Cleveland Local Authority
- Stockton on Tees 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 & Tees Valley APC webpage at:

<https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/committees/county-durham-tees-valley-apc/>

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

The APC has delegated authority for decision-making from the respective constituent CCGs and Trusts to the limits specified in its terms of reference.

The committee meets on a bi-monthly basis, with meetings occurring on the second Thursday of every other month. Between April 2020 and March 2021 the Committee met four times, consulted/made decisions via email on further two occasions.

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:

- Regional Gender Dysphoria Guidelines (Mar 2021)
- Primary Care Drug Monitoring Guidelines (Mar 2021)
- TEWV Clozapine on Admission to Acute Hospital (Jan 2021)
- Transanal Irrigation (Nov 2020)
- Vitamin D (Nov 2020)
- TEWV GP Information Sheet on Clozapine (Nov 2020)
- Tapentadol Dose Reduction Guidance for Primary Care (Nov 2020)
- Northern England Evaluation & Lipid Intensification Guidelines (Nov 2020)
- Position Statement on Omega-3 Prescribing (Sep 2020)
- CD&T APC DNP/Grey List (Sep 2020)
- County Durham and Darlington DVT Pathway (Sep 2020)
- Pain Management Guidance for Non-Cancer Pain in Primary Care (Sep 2020)
- COPD Pathway (Sep 2020)
- Adult Asthma (Sep 2020)
- Paediatric Asthma (Sep 2020)
- Primary Care Guideline for Prescribing & Monitoring Post Bariatric Surgery (Sep 2020)
- Anticoagulation During COVID-19 (Jul 2020)

Shared Care Guidelines:

- Tees Ciclosporin (Mar 2021)
- Riluzole (Mar 2021)
- Dapsone (Mar 2021)
- TEWV Methylphenidate (updated Jan 2021)
- TEWV Atomoxetine (updated Jan 2021)
- TEWV Melatonin (updated Jan 2021)
- County Durham Cinacalcet for Primary hyperparathyroidism (updated Jan 2021)

Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

- TEWV Safe Lithium Prescribing and Shared Care (updated Jan 2021)

Other:

- County Durham and Tees Valley APC Terms of Reference (updated Mar 2021)
- County Durham and Tees Valley Formulary & Guidelines Subgroup Terms of Reference (updated Sep 2020)
- Patient Decision Aids Resource (updated Mar 2021)

New Drug Applications Considered

- Melatonin (Slenyto®) for licensed indications only – approved Nov 2020
- Actikerall® Cutaneous Solution – approved Nov 2020
- Kaftiro® - approved Jan 2021
- Dovato® - approved Mar 2021
- Juluca® - approved Mar 2021
- Nebulised Aztreonam (Cayston®) – approved Mar 2021
- Phenol in Glycerol 5% Intrathecal – approved Mar 2021
- Low dose Naltrexone for Hailey-Hailey Disease – approved Jan 2021

Subgroups

Formulary Subgroup

The formulary subgroup comprises of representatives from each of the local CCGs, TEWV, CDDFT, STHFT, NTHFT and the Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre. It has met on alternate months throughout 2020-21 to progress the work of the group and the APC. It continues to develop and maintain the joint County Durham & Tees Valley Formulary which can be found at:

<http://joint-formulary.tees.nhs.uk/>

With the support of the RDTC regular horizon scanning is undertaken, and compliance with NICE Technology Appraisals, RMOG and NTAG 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
- Local Trust Drug & Therapeutics Committees
- Local High Cost Drugs Subgroup
- NE&NC 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:

<https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/committees/county-durham-tees-valley-apc/>

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

<https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/guidelines/tees-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 Tees Valley, and for those patients in North Yorkshire CCG served by South Tees NHS Foundation Trust.
- To work collaboratively with neighbouring APC's to produce consistent medicines policies throughout the North East and N Cumbria.
- To work across the region to continue to update guidelines for the management of type 2 diabetes and in the process ensure the financial risks of updated guidelines are addressed, so that updated guidelines can be approved clinically and financially. The APC recognised the need for these guidelines to be updated to reflect latest clinical evidence but this needs to be supported by robust financial modelling. Concerns around the financial risks/implications will continue to be raised on the APCs behalf regionally and nationally