

Area Prescribing Committee

Annual Report

2021-2022

Chairman's Report

This is the third 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.

The APC has begun to work collaboratively with other APCs in the region and NTAG, as the NHS moves to the new ICS structures.



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 2021 and March 2022 the Committee met five times, and consulted/made decisions via email on one other occasion.

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:

- TEWV Citalopram Escitalopram - dose reduction ECG algorithm (May 2021)
- CD&T APC Guidance for Hypogonadism Management in Primary Care (May 2021)
- TEWV STOMP medication pathway (May 2021)
- TEWV Depression pathway (updated May 2021)
- TEWV Anxiety pathway (updated May 2021 & Mar 2022)
- TEWV Adult ADHD algorithm (updated Jul 2021)
- TEWV Childrens ADHD algorithm (updated Jul 2021)
- CD&T Dapagliflozin for Heart Failure Guideline (Jul 2021)
- CD&T Guidance for Prescribing & Monitoring Post Bariatric Surgery (updated Jul 2021)
- CD&T Gluten Free Guidance (reviewed Jul 2021)
- County Durham bladder and bowel formulary (reviewed Jul 2021)
- GP clinical information sheet to support the prescribing and monitoring of Denosumab (Prolia®) (Jul 2021)
- Updates to CD&T Respiratory Guidelines (COPD, Asthma, Paediatric Asthma)
- County Durham Monitored Dosage System Guidance (Jul 2021)
- CD&TV Do Not Prescribe/Grey List (reviewed Sep 2021)
- CD&T APC Prescribing Guidance for Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (Nov 2021)
- CD&T APC Pain Guidelines for Non-Cancer Pain (reviewed Nov 2021)
- CD&T APC Emollient Prescribing for Dry Skin Conditions (reviewed Nov 2021)
- NE Diabetes Network – Top Tips and Recommendations for use of Sodium Glucose Co-transporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) in people with Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) (Nov 2021)
- County Durham Erectile Dysfunction Guidelines (reviewed Mar 2022)
- CD&T Cow's Milk Intolerance Guidelines (Mar 2022)

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- TEWV Safe transfer of prescribing guidance (updated Mar 2022)
- National Guidance for Lipid Management for Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD (Jan & Mar 2022)
- TEWV Depression Pathway Handy Hints (Nov 2022)
- TEWV Safety Guidance Antipsychotic Depot injections on Admission to an Acute Hospital Ward (Nov 2022)
- TEWV Medicines Optimisation - Interactive Guide for External Stakeholders (Mar 2022)

Shared Care Guidelines:

- Ergot derived dopamine agonists SCG (reviewed July 2021)
- Tolcapone in Parkinson's SCG (reviewed July 2021)
- TEWV Aripiprazole LAI (updated Nov 2021)
- TEWV Paliperidone LAI (updated Nov 2021)
- Cinacalcet SCG (reviewed Mar 2022)
- TEWV Risperidone LAI SCG (new Mar 2022)
- TEWV Guanfacine SCG (updated Mar 2022)
- DMARD SCG – review date extended for 6 months (Mar 2022)

Other:

- RMO Shared Care for Medicines Guidance: A Standard Approach (adopted May 2021)
- CD&T APC Template for Shared Care Guidelines – updated to reflect RMO template. (May 2021)
- CD&T APC Clinical Guideline or Pathway Approval Checklist (Jul 2021)
- TEWV Deprescribing Guidelines – dosulepin, trimipramine, promazine (Sep 2021)
- CD&T Guidelines on Defining RAG Status (reviewed Sep 2021)
- CD&T APC Declarations of Interest Policy (reviewed Sep 2021)
- CD&T Formulary Subgroup Terms of Reference (updated Nov 2021)

New Drug Applications Considered

- Buprenorphine oral lypophilisate (Espranor®) resubmission – not approved May 2021
- Chlorprocaine Hydrochloride 1% Injection – approved July 2021
- Nystatin Pessaries – approved July 2021
- Epiduo® Gel (Adapalene/Benzyl Peroxide) – approved July 2021
- Diamorphine pre-filled syringes (unlicensed) for use in spinal anaesthesia – approved July 2021
- Misoprostol 25 microgram tablets – approved September 2021
- Trurapi® insulin – approved January 2022
- Lyumjev® insulin – not approved January 2022

- Tirbanibulin ointment – approved March 2022.

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 2021-22 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, RMO 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
- NE&NC Prescribing Forum
- NTAG
- Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (North)
- South Tyneside & Sunderland APC
- North of Tyne, Gateshead & North Cumbria APC

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

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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 collaboratively across the region to create and establish the new North East and N Cumbria ICS Medicines Optimisation structures.