

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report (2019-20)

Introduction

The Doncaster & Bassetlaw Area Prescribing Committee (APC) co-ordinates the development of prescribing and medicines management strategies across the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Health Communities. The overarching functions of the committee include; providing consistent, evidence based advice to Doncaster & Bassetlaw CCG's, hospital trusts, primary care contractors and non-medical prescribers.

The committee publicises and disseminates its guidance through Shared Care Protocols, Prescribing Guidance, the Traffic Light System and monthly updates in the Medicines Management Newsletter (The T@blet). All approved documents and guidance are made available on the NHS Doncaster Medicines Management Website.

This report aims to summarise the activities of the APC during 2019-20 and includes; Drug reviews; Membership details; Attendance figures and achievements of the APC.

Membership

The APC serves the Doncaster and Bassetlaw healthcare communities and has representatives from professional, clinical, educational, management and commissioning backgrounds which are committed to the APC from the following organisations:

- NHS Doncaster CCG GP Representative (Chair)
- NHS Doncaster CCG GP Representative
- NHS Doncaster CCG Head of Medicines Management
- NHS Doncaster CCG MMT Senior Pharmacist or Chief Technician
- NHS Doncaster CCG MMT Senior Technician (Secretary)
- NHS Bassetlaw CCG Head of Medicines Management (Deputy Chair)
- DBHFT Medical Director or deputy
- DBHFT Clinical Director Pharmacy & Medicines Management or deputy
- RDaSHFT Chief Pharmacist or deputy
- Local Medical Committee Representative
- Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative
- FCMS Representative

Attendance

The meetings are held on a monthly basis, there was a total of 9 meetings during 2019-20.

Please note: no meetings were held in June/December. The meeting in March 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The table below shows attendance figures for members of the committee or that of an appointed deputy. It is requested that representatives of the organisation have an annual attendance at APC meetings of at least 60%.

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Possible no. of attendance's	Meetings Attended	% attended	Overall Organisational Attendance
Dr David Crichton	APC Chair	NHSD CCG	9	9	100	100%
Dr Rachel Sykes	NHS Doncaster GP	NHSD CCG	5	2	22	66%
Dr Rachel Hubbard	NHS Doncaster GP	NHSD CCG	4	4	44	
Mr Alex Molyneux	Head of Medicines Management	NHSD CCG	9	5	55	100%
Ms V-Lin Cheong	Deputy Head of Medicines Management	NHSD CCG	9	8	89	
Mr Lee Wilson	Consultant Pharmacist - Deputy	DBTHFT	9	8	89	100%
Dr Lucy Peart	Acute Physician DBTHFT	DBTHFT	9	6	67	
Mr Stephen Davies	Chief Pharmacist	RDaSHFT	9	8	89	89%
Mr Rob Wise	Head of Medicines Management	NHSB CCG	9	9	100	100%
Dr Runit Shah	Local Medical Committee Representative	Doncaster LMC	9	7	78	78%
Mr Richard Harris	Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative	Doncaster LPC	6	2	22	55%
Mr Munashe Mvududu	Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative	Doncaster LPC	3	3	33	
Mr Andrew Shakesby	Representative from Quality and Performance	FCMS	9	2	22	22%

Specialist Input

Throughout the year, officers of the APC worked together with General Practitioners, Secondary Care Clinicians, Specialist Nurses and Pharmacists to develop and review several shared care agreements and prescribing guidance to take to the committee for approval.

Shared Care & Prescribing Guidance Documents

The following lists are Shared care Protocols (SCP), Proformas and Amber-G Guidance that have been developed, or reviewed due to new evidence, changes in good practice or expiration of existing documentation.

New SCP

Ciclosporin 0.1% Eye Drops for treatment of severe keratitis and treatment of severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis.

This is guidance to support Primary Care to continue prescribing where appropriate and within the licenced indications; the committee was in agreement that shared care was a suitable option for patients once they had been stabilised by Secondary Care.

Hydrocortisone Medication in Children the committee agreed the SCP was suitable to enable continuation of care by primary care clinicians for children placed on hydrocortisone by DBTH paediatricians. This is for use within its licensed indications or for those outlined within the document where it is deemed appropriate and in the patient's best interest.

Review of existing SCP

Documents that have been under review this year include:

- The Management of Children with a Growth Hormone Disorder SCP
- Prescription and supply of Dalteparin SCP – This guidance was updated in August 2019.
- The Melatonin SCP has been discussed and is still currently under review awaiting input from other areas of the ICS.
- Dementia SCP has been discussed with a view to some further amendments.

New/updated Guidance Documents

Several documents have been presented at APC meeting for comments on their development including:

- The Pre-emptive prescribing (end of life) document.
- The updated pathway supporting NHSE for prescribing of Freestyle Libre to appropriate patients with type 1 diabetes.
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Antimicrobial guidelines for primary care.
- Prescribing Guidelines for Children with Epilepsy.
- Guidance for the Management of Oral Antipsychotics for Patients on the SMI Register.
- Management of Shared Care prescribing arrangements flowchart.
- Gluten free prescribing guidance.

The review & development of shared care documents & prescribing guidance are included as part of the committee's 12-monthly work plan.

Ad-hoc interactions

The committee members have also been involved in other areas providing support and advice including:

- The requirement of specialist monitoring by ophthalmology for patients taking hydroxychloroquine for rheumatology conditions; it was noted that the SCP would need to be changed to reflect NICE guidance as well as local policy.
- NHSD was asked for comments/recommendations surrounding the new Falsified Medicines Directive which was discussed by the committee.
- Continued input into the local work following the NHSE Over the Counter prescribing consultation and the ICS OTC campaign launch.
- Contribution and comments to the MMTs work regarding letters from primary care returning prescribing responsibility to secondary care of red/amber traffic lighted drugs.
- Guidance relating to the shortage of Memantine and continued therapy of the drug.
- Discussions regarding the pre-emptive prescribing instructions to administer letters with feedback given to DBTHFT.
- "The Brexit Effect" : The committee discussed the NHS Guidance on proposed changes to the Human Medicines Regulation 2012 to ensure the continuity of supply of medicines (including in a 'no deal' EU exit).
- MHRA alert regarding HRT and associated risk and the best way to communicate these risks to prescribers.
- Consultation regarding Opioid prescribing in SY&B ICS.

Traffic Light System (TLS)

The Traffic Light System (TLS) is a database which provides guidance to prescribers on prescribing responsibilities for selected medications. It aims to provide clear understanding of where clinical and prescribing responsibility rests between specialists and GPs.

Criteria for the inclusion of medicines on these lists, or the moving of medicines between the different categories of the TLS, will be primarily based on: evidence, clinical responsibility, patient safety, willingness to provide agreed shared care information and the presence of an approved shared care protocol.

Each drug is classified under one of the following categories:

- Grey
- Red
- Amber (Shared Care)
- Amber with Guidance (Amber-G)

- Green
- Green with Guidance (Green-G)

The category it is placed in determines the circumstances in which it is recommended to be prescribed and any guidance/rationale which needs to be taken into consideration. When new guidance/information is released on the drug, it is reviewed and the category it is placed in can be changed dependent on its place in therapy.

The TLS is available as a web-based version on the medicines management website

Review of new drugs, formulations and indications

At each meeting several lists of drugs are reviewed. These include; new indications for existing drugs; new drugs; products granted licences for new indications; existing TLS entries which are due for review or review of existing entries when there is new or emerging evidence available. These are identified prior to the meetings by APC officers who use a review process to ensure that a robust horizon scanning process is carried out daily on existing and potential new TLS entries.

The committee considers these under:-

- **Officers Actions:** amendments or additions completed by APC officers and are circulated on the agenda for information and ratification. These actions include adding national or local guidance to support an agreed rationale, brand names and grammatical changes.
- **Additions for Consideration:** new drugs, indications or formulations which are being considered for inclusion onto the Traffic Light System.
- **Drugs for Review:** for current entries where the review date is due or new emerging evidence, such as the publication of a Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) or new NICE guidance has been released.

The following shows a breakdown of the number of drugs that have been reviewed and agreed at the APC through the process of drugs for review, officer's actions, and considerations.

Month	Drugs for Review	Officers Actions	Considerations	Total of drugs reviewed
April	7	10	6	23
May	4	8	2	14
June	No meeting			
July	3	30	11	44
August	1	7	1	9
September	1	9	6	16
October	0	4	5	9
November	1	2	1	4
December	No meeting			
January	62	11	1	74
February	8	7	6	21
March	No meeting			
Total number of drugs for the period				214

Monitoring prescribing patterns against APC guidance on selected traffic light entries (TLS)

NHSD-MMT produce reports throughout the year, these are reviewed at practice level and they are periodically included on the APC agenda. The reports highlight:

- Those with potential risks linked to on-going clinical review of the requirement for a monitoring schedule to be in place
- Or

- Those not recommended for initiation or prescribing on an NHS prescription in the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Health Care Communities

A full complement of reports has been included on the agenda in this period.

Communication

The NHS Doncaster Medicines Management Website provides a useful and informative resource for the public, staff members and healthcare professionals from Doncaster, Bassetlaw and other Trusts around the country.

APC decisions are well communicated via The T@blet newsletter.

Formulary

The committee continues to support the collaborative work undertaken by the Formulary Liaison Group (FLG), which is represented by DCCG, BCCG, RDASH FT and DBTHFT.

Preparation and Support

Support to the APC from NHS DCCG MMT is provided by the Head of Medicines Management, Deputy Head of Medicine Management, Medicines Management Technician, administrative support and input from a DCCG Information Analyst.

Governance

The Area Prescribing Committee is encompassed within the following governance processes:

- DCCG Medicines Management Group, and the DCCG Quality & Patient Safety Group
- DBTHFT Drug & Therapeutics Committee
- RDASH FT Medicines Management Committee.

The Committee ensure that robust standards and governance arrangements underpin area wide decision-making and advice related to medicines.

Objectives The committee agrees that the over- arching functions of the APC provide adequate objectives and the APC work programme for the period is included below to demonstrate progress.

2019-20 Work Programme

Month	Item	Action	Progress
April 2019			
May	Modafinil SCP	STH - watch and brief	On-going
	APC Annual Report		Complete
June	Anti-coagulant DOAC prescribing tool	DBTHFT	On-going
July	Parkinson SCP	SYB/ APC supporting the development of a joint protocol. Sheffield APC is leading with this work	<i>On-going</i>
August	Dalterparin SCP DBTHFT/STH		<i>Complete</i>
September	Desunomab	STH – Watch and Brief	<i>On-going</i>
October	Prepare the Annual Report		<i>Annually</i>
	Fosfomycin Guidance	DCCG MMT	<i>On-going</i>
November			
December	Growth Hormone in Children SCP	DBTHFT	Ready for final approval
January			



Bassetlaw

Clinical Commissioning Group



Doncaster

Clinical Commissioning Group

2020			
February	BPSD Dementia Guidance		<i>On-going</i>
March	Fidaxomicin	DCCG MMT	<i>On-going</i>
	Declaration of Interests		<i>Annually</i>

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