

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Area Prescribing Committee Annual Report (2021-22)

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. 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 2021-22 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 Bassetlaw CCG Head of Medicines Management (Chair)
- NHS Doncaster CCG Deputy Chief Pharmacist (Deputy Chair)
- NHS Doncaster CCG GP Representative
- NHS Doncaster CCG MMT Senior Pharmacist or Chief Technician
- NHS Doncaster CCG MMT Senior Technician (Secretary)
- NHS Bassetlaw CCG GP Representative DBHFT Medical Director or deputy
- DBHFT Clinical Director Pharmacy & Medicines Management or deputy
- RDaSHFT Medical Director or deputy
- RDaSHFT Chief Pharmacist or deputy
- Non-medical prescriber representative
- Local Medical Committee Representative
- Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative
- FCMS Representative

Attendance

The meetings are held monthly, there was a total of 9 meetings during 2021-22.

Please note there were no meetings held in January 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There were no meetings held in August and December 2021.

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	7	70	70%
Dr Rachel Hubbard	NHS Doncaster GP	NHSD CCG	9	9	100	100%
Mr Alex Molyneux	Chief Pharmacist Medicine Management	NHSD CCG	9	7	70	100%
Dr V-Lin Cheong (Pharmacist)	Deputy Head of Medicines Management	NHSD CCG	1	1	100	
Mrs Charlotte McMurray	Deputy Chief Medicines Management (June 2021)	NHSD CCG	6	6	100	
Mrs Rachel Wilson	Chief Pharmacist	DBTHFT	9	2	22	100%
Mr Lee Wilson	Consultant Pharmacist - Deputy	DBTHFT	9	6	67	
Dr Lucy Peart	Acute Physician DBTHFT	DBTHFT	9	2	22	
Mr Stephen Davies	Chief Pharmacist	RDaSHFT	9	6	67	67%
Mr Anil Rajpal	Senior Pharmacist	RDaSHFT	1	1	100	
Mr Rob Wise	Medicines Management Lead Pharmacist (Deputy Chair)	NHSB CCG	9	9	100	100%
Dr Rumit Shah	Local Medical Committee Representative	Doncaster LMC	9	5	56	78%
Dr Sulman Thullimalli	Local Medical Committee Representative- Deputy	Doncaster LMC	9	2	22	
Vacant Position	Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative	Doncaster LPC	0	0	0	0%
Mr Munashe Mvududu	Local Pharmaceutical Committee Representative	Doncaster LPC	0	0	0	
Vacant position	Doncaster Community Healthcare Non- Medical Prescribing	DCH	0	0	0	0%
Mr Andrew Shakesby	Representative from Quality and Performance	FCMS	0	0	0	0%

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.

Review of existing SCP

Documents that have been under review this year include:

- Melatonin in Adults- The current SCP is to support the off-label prescribing of melatonin in children with sleep disorders. It was discussed that the SPC should prescribe for patients who are over 18 years old with LD. Awaiting final approval June 2022
- Epilepsy SCP-New updated SCP awaiting final approval April 2022
- Denosumab- SPC was reviewed and updated. Final SCP was approved May 2021
- RMOC Shared care documents for Amiodarone, Dronedarone, Lithium and Valproate
- Amiodarone SCP- was agreed at Septembers 2021 APC meeting
- Riluzole SCP- was agreed at Septembers 2021 APC meeting
- Parkinson's Shared Care Protocol – was reviewed and updated. It was approved at February's 2022 APC meeting
- Bicalutamide Shared Care Protocol- The current guidance was reviewed and updated at February's APC meeting

New/updated/reviewed Guidance Documents

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

- Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC) shared care best practice guidance – The committee accepted the RMOC shared care best practice guidance would benefit from a national and regional approach
- Chronic pain NICE Guidance – NICE have updated the pain guidance. The Medicine Management Team are currently working to develop new pain guidance. This is still in development.
- Preparing a Shared Care Protocol for Mycophenolate – Neurology
- Dosing and monitoring of Vitamin D in Pregnancy – current vitamin D guidance are due for renewal to incorporate pregnancy and for renal patients, vegans and vegetarian are included in the document. Including monitoring
- Atrial Fibrillation guidance -Putting a link onto the website to direct practitioners to the 'Orbit' assessment tool and a link to 'Has-Bled' tool and update any current guidance documents
- Formulary antimicrobial Guidance update for sore throats
- Topiramate updated with new NICE Guidance and additional information added regarding females taking contraception while taking the drug
- NICE NG198 Acne Guidance is now linked to the formulary
- SCP for Myasthenia Gravis or Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculopathy (CIDP) in adults was agreed to be used in Bassetlaw CCG
- Ocular Lubricant Guidance was agreed at October's APC meeting
- Guidance document for Topical testosterone replacement therapy in post-menopausal woman – approved at February's 2022 APC meeting and is hosted on the Medicine Management website
- Palliative Care Guidance- Furosemide, Ketamine, Methadone and Octrotide – The updated documents were approved by the committee at February's 2022 APC meeting
- Flash Glucose Monitoring Letter provided by the Diabetic clinician to be sent to GP practices to prescribe Freestyle Libre 2 approved at February's APC meeting and is available on the MMT website
- Acarizax and Grazax in both children and adults – Shared care Protocol was approved by the committee at March's 2022 APC meeting
- Dementia Shared Care Proforma – document updated with new review date in line with the protocol

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:

- Discussions on Chloramphenicol eye drops in children under 2 years old- Committee agreed Chloramphenicol eye drops should not be used in children under 2 years old as per manufacturer's instructions
- RMOG Draft Terms of Reference – Discussed at May's APC meeting and responses collected and taken to the ICS consultation meeting
- RMOG Shared care documents for Amiodarone, Dronedarone, Lithium and Valproate
- Levothyroxine: Switching between products – discussions regarding the MHRA advice the committee agreed if patients TFT levels were in the correct range before switching. Information was cascaded through the GP bulletin
- SPS document regarding choosing a safe antidepressant for people with chronic heart disease – the committee decided that this should be circulated to prescribers, link was added to the TLS/MPD and Optimise RX
- Contribution and comments to the MMGs work regarding letters from primary care returning prescribing responsibility to secondary care of red/amber traffic lighted drugs.
- Endorsing Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine PGD and SPS procedures discussed for vaccination work
- Discussed the HEAL (Covid protocol) regarding a possible trial that may be undertaken in Doncaster
- Circulating Information on the risk of topical steroid withdrawal reactions via GP Bulletin

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	Returning Drugs	Total of drugs reviewed
April	1	10	8	N/A	19
May	3	23	7	N/A	33
June	8	9	5	5	27
July	11	8	8	4	28
August	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting
September	0	16	2	0	18
October	6	84	6	9	105
November	44	10	14	3	71
December	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting
January	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting		No meeting
February	44	31	14	8	97
March	2	38	14	12	66
Total number of drugs for the period					464

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
- 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 Optamix and bulletin – Primary care bulletin

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

Clinical Commissioning Group

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.

2021-22 Work Programme

Month	Item	Action	Progress
April			
May	Parkinson's disease Shared Care protocol	APC supporting the development of a wider ICS protocol. Sheffield APC is leading with this work.	Completed February 2022
	Denosumab SPC	DCCG Review	Completed
June	Mycophenolate	SCP for Neurology	On-going
	Chronic Pain Guidance	MMT developing new guidance	On-going
	Epilepsy in adults SCP	STH	Completed March 2022
July	NICE CG150 Topiramate	NICE Guidance – safety measures	Completed
	Endometriosis SCP	DBTHFT	On-going
August	Vitamin D guidance		Completed
September	Myasthenia Gravis or Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculopathy (CIDP) in adults	DBTHFT- Agreed for Bassetlaw CCG SPC agreed by DCCG APC – but still ongoing regarding blood monitoring	On-going
October	Dementia SCP	RDASH	On-going
November	Melatonin SPC	DBTHFT	Completed
	Paroxetine and Sertraline for Premature Ejaculation Guidance	DCCG & BCCG	On-going
	Grazax and Acarizax SCP	DCCG & DCCG	On-going
	Topical Testosterone replacement therapy in post -menopausal woman SCP	DCCG& BCCG	Completed February 2022
December			
January 2022			
February	Lipid Guidelines	DBTFT/DCCG	On-going

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	Palliative Care Guidance	DBTFT	Completed
	Bicalutamide SCP	DBTFT	Completed
March	HRT Guidance	DCCG/BCCG	On-going
	Transgender SCP	ICB	On-going

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