North of Tyne Area Prescribing Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Area Prescribing Committee held on Tuesday 11th November 2014 at Northumbria House, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside

Present:

Pat Bottrill	Lay Representative	
David Campbell (DCa) (Chair)	Chief Pharmacist/Clinical Director for Medicines Management	NHCT
Ian Campbell (IC)	Assistant Director of Pharmacy	NUTH
Sarah Chandler (SC)	Formulary Pharmacist	NHCT
Sue Dickinson (SD)	Director of Pharmacy	RDTC
Tim Donaldson (TD)	Trust Chief Pharmacist/Associate Director of Medicines Management	NTWT
Matthew Lowery (ML)	Formulary and Audit Pharmacist	NUTH
Peter McEvedy (PMcE)	GP and Prescribing Lead	NHS Northumberland CCG
Wendy Ross (WR)	GP and APC Representative	NHSNewcastle North & East CCG
Helen Seymour (HS)	Senior Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist	NECS
Sheetal Sundeep	Consultant Microbiologist	NHCT
Simon Thomas (STh)	Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist	NUTH
Susan Turner (STu)	Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist	NECS
Neil Watson(NW)	Clinical Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management	NUTH
Steve Williamson(SW)	Consultant Pharmacist in Cancer Services	NHCT/NHSE

Apologies

Anne-Marie Bailey (AMB)	Senior Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist	NECS
Russell Buglass(RB)	Community Pharmacist	NoT LPC
Helen Coundon(HC)	GP and Prescribing Lead	NHS North Tyneside CCG
Alexander Dyker (AD)	Consultant Physician	NUTH
Matt Grove (MG)	Consultant Rheumatologist and Head of Service	NHCT

NoT LPC	North of Tyne Local Pharmaceutical Committee
NHSE	NHS England
NHCT	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
NECS	North of England Commissioning Support Organisation
NTWT	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
NUTH	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RDTC	Regional Drugs and Therapeutics Centre

2014/78 The chairman welcomed Pat Bottrill and Sheetal Sundeep as new members of the committee

2014/79 **Declarations of interest**
No relevant declarations.

2014/80 **Appeals against previous decisions**
None to be heard.

2014/81 **Minutes and decision summary from the meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2014**
These were accepted as a true record.

2014/82 **Matters arising not on the agenda.**
None

2014/83 **Action Log**
The action log was reviewed and will be updated to reflect the following progress:

- New product application form – The committee approved a plain language section that could be used to help lay members on either the FSC or APC understand the rationale behind any application.
- Hyaluronic acid injection in osteoarthritis – deadline extended to January meeting
- NICE CG171: Urinary incontinence in women – pathway to be presented to MGUG 19/11/14.
- Nausea and Vomiting – concern had previously been expressed that changes to recommendations around domperidone use would lead to an increase in the use of ondansetron. Audit has clarified that practice has moved towards more use of prochloperazine and cyclizine therefore original concerns around escalating costs have not materialised. Remove from action log.
- NOAC Patient alert card – SD confirmed that NICE are not progressing this work. It is believed that the local Cardiovascular Network are picking this up. In the interim there are industry and European Network cards available for use.

2014/84 **Report from the Formulary Sub-committee**
Formulary version 5.5 is now available on the APC website.
Minutes and recommendations from the meeting held on October 2014.
The above minutes and recommendations were received by the committee.
The summary of decisions made by the committee on new product requests is listed in **Appendix 1**.
The following specific points were highlighted for further consideration:

Avanafil tablets (Spedra®)
Avanafil is the fourth to market phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitor licensed for the treatment of ED. Compared to the other PDE5 inhibitors it has the quickest onset time. Additional comments had been received from the applicant and a primary care clinician who stated that an additional product may avoid referrals to secondary care. The committee felt that although avanafil is currently cheaper than tadalafil it is more akin to sildenafil in terms of duration of action and does not appear to offer any advantages over sildenafil.

Decision: Refused
The request was declined on the grounds that avanafil is a short-acting agent that has no significant advantage over the current short acting PDE5 inhibitor on formulary.

Carmellose Sodium 0.5% x/v (Xialin® Fresh) and White soft paraffin 57.3% w/w preservative—free ophthalmic ointment (Xialin®Night)
These two eye products have been requested as cheaper alternatives to the current formulary choices. Since the formulary subcommittee meeting it has become apparent that there are several companies now competing in this market and a review is required.

Decision: Approved
The requests for Xialin® Fresh and Xialin® Night were approved as interim first line agents but the committee agreed a review of the ophthalmic section of the formulary would be undertaken to rationalize first line choices.

Alprostadil 3mg/g cream (Vitaros®)
The FSC had recommended approval of this agent subject to confirmation of compatibility with condoms. ML confirmed this had been verified with the manufacturer and therefore approval was given.

2014/85 **Report from the Medicines Guidelines and Use Group**
Draft minutes from the meeting of 14 were accepted and the following actions taken:
Guidelines approved:

- Guidelines for the use of masculinising hormone therapy in gender dysphoria.
  In SSC1417 (March 2014) NHS England clarified the Primary Care responsibilities in relation to the prescribing and monitoring of hormone therapy for patients undergoing or having undergone Gender dysphoria treatments. This guideline supports those responsibilities.

Information leaflets for primary care approved :

- Venlafaxine

Shared Care Guidelines approved:

- Atomoxetine in the Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Adults.
- Methylphenidate in the Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in adults – update.

Commissioning arrangements have now been agreed with NTW for ADHD services for adults. Additional capacity has been built into the service that puts the responsibility for prescribing during initiation and stabilisation of medication with the specialist service. The above two SCGs formally sets out the responsibilities of both parties.
HS clarified that once the osteoporosis guidelines are finalised work will be undertaken to update the current Vitamin D guidance.

2014/86 **Report from the Anti-microbial Chemotherapy subcommittee.**
The regional primary care guideline, which has had the support of Public Health England, and has involved both the regional microbiologists group and the regional antimicrobial pharmacists network, was discussed. Members have 2 weeks to send in additional comments following which DC will take Chair's action to approve.
De-Noltabs are recommended within this guidance and these are currently not on the North of Tyne formulary. The committee agreed the formulary should be amended to include them.

2014/87 **Documents previously circulated by e-mail**
None

2014/88 **NICE**

The following NICE TAGs were noted. The recommendations within them were endorsed by the committee and the North of Tyne Formulary will be updated to reflect these decisions.

- TA322 Lenalidomide for treating myelodysplastic syndromes associated with an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality – NHS England is the responsible commissioner.
- TA321 Dabrafenib for treating unresectable or metastatic BRAF V600 mutation positive melanoma — NHS England is the responsible commissioner.

2014/89 **Northern (NHS) Treatment Advisory Group (N-TAG)**

No meeting to report on.

2014/90 **NHS England Specialised Services Approval**

The following NHS England Specialised Service Approvals were noted:

- CNTW Spec Comm team drugs briefing Sept 2014
- SSC 1450: Specialised Services Circular regarding the Commissioning of Palivizumab (to reduce the risk of RSV in High Risk Infants) for the 2014 Vaccination Season
- SSC 1451 - Dimethyl fumarate for MS

SSC The recommendations and commissioning intentions within them were noted by the committee and the North of Tyne Formulary will be updated to reflect these.

Members of the committee expressed concern over the decision taken regarding excess treatment costs. The Specialised Commissioning team has stated that it is unable to support any excess treatment costs which may arise from new clinical studies irrespective of the study sponsorship. The committee challenged this and asked for their concerns to be fed-back at a national level. SW assured the committee this had already been done. DC agreed to write to the chair of the Medicines Optimisation Clinical Reference Group to outline the committee`s concerns, including the potential impact on patient care.

2014/91 **Chair's action**

- Update to Ropinorole information sheet - approved
- Updated Anticoagulant advice - National advice, based on the original RDTC work for the North of Tyne APC, was approved and has been added to the website.

2014/92 **Any other business**

None

2014/93 **Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 12:30pm
Room 4, Northumbria House, Unit 7/8 Silver Fox Way, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside.

Signed: ..... **Date:** 13/1/15
(Chair of the APC)