

Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 18th March 2026 10-12.30pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present		
Veronica Rainey (Chair) Victoria Gemmell (Prof Sec) Craig Thurtell Colin Angus Rachael Kelly Eimear Gordon Kirsty Macfarlane Tyra Smyth Gail Richardson Saurabh Kumar Christine Carswell Quorate (minimum 6 members) – Y	Stephanie Dundas Kavan Stafford Graeme Bryson Invited Attendees: Laura Cameron, Michael McCusker(Item 8a) Lorna Templeton (Items 4c, 8d, 8e,9a, 9b) Christine Paterson (Items 9c, 14b) Lynsay McAulay Items 8f and 8g) Meena Viridi (item 4b and 4i)	
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Penny Brankin, Lucy Munro, Chris Miller, Sharon Murray, Alastair Brown	
2.	Declaration of Interest	
	Nil	
3.	Ratification of minutes of February 2026 meeting	
	Approved	
4.	Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda	
	<p>a. R-hGH Guideline – Ian Hunter This has been discussed at PMMB and GP Sub-Committee. The finalised documents will be brought back for noting at the April meeting.</p> <p>b. Vabysmo (Faricimab) – Umaima Mulla This was approved with no further changes</p> <p>c. Lithium Monitoring Documents – Lorna Templeton* This was approved with no further changes.</p> <p>d. Procainamide for Tachyarrhythmias SBAR – Penny Brankin Update Awaited</p> <p>e. Homebirth Guideline – Gordon Buchanan Update Awaited</p> <p>f. Progesterone – Gordon Buchanan Update Awaited</p> <p>g. Forensic mental health inpatients accessing and using private providers for healthcare – Kirsty MacFarlane Update Awaited</p> <p>h. Co-codamol Shortage – Kirsty MacFarlane KM gave an update. This is an evolving situation, and the Co-codamol Strategy Group continues to monitor the situation.</p>	

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	<p>i. Intravenous Acetazolamide Guideline – Ruth Waters</p> <p>MV discussed the concerns previously raised regarding patient consent and it was confirmed that the risks of treatment are discussed as part of the consent to procedure. It was agreed that responsibility for this would lie with the Ophthalmology department. It was discussed that this would be an emergency situation, and emergency action would be appropriate. The committee were satisfied with the email response to previous concerns.</p> <p>The document was approved with no further changes.</p>	
5.	ADTC Committee Business	
	<p>a. New Member Proposal</p> <p>VG proposed new member-Chair of Maternity CEG. It is hoped that this would support the ADTC in understanding the needs of this complex specialty. This was accepted and an invite will be sent.</p> <p>b. Maternity Clinical Effectiveness Update</p> <p>VR updated the committee on the current situation regarding Maternity Guidelines. There are a high number of these, and ADTC do not currently have capacity to ratify these as part of routine business.</p> <p>Options including an extraordinary ADTC meeting or a specific review sub-group would facilitate progress on this. There was broad agreement and specific plans will be explored.</p>	
6.	SMC Advice (CONFIDENTIAL)	RK
6.1	<p>a. SMC Advice – March 2026</p> <p>RK outlined actions post-ADTC for new SMC advice which was agreed.</p>	
6.2	<p>Updates to NHS LK status on SMC advice</p> <p>RK outlined proposed updates in designations for SMC medicines, including those relating to medicines for Oncology indications following the publication of 'Summary of Advice to NHS Board ADTCs' (December 2025) from PASG. RK also outlined recent SPS guidance on the responsibilities of Chief Pharmacists for exagamglogene autotemcel (Cagevy®) and highlighted that updates are still pending on the use of this medicine in NHS Lanarkshire. This was agreed.</p> <p>VR informed the committee that there are plans to meet with Site Chief's of Medicine to discuss the managed entry of new medicines to help increase understanding of the process and the Board's obligations.</p>	
6.3	<p>Updates to Lanarkshire Bulletins</p> <p>These were agreed.</p>	
6.4	<p>Outstanding SMC New Medicines Decisions</p> <p>RK outlined proposed designation updates for SMC advice for UO Initial Assessment. These were agreed.</p>	
7.	Lanarkshire Formulary / West of Scotland Formulary	KM
7.1	<p>NHSLK formulary changes proposals</p> <p>Lanarkshire formulary amendments related to removal of discontinued products and updated wording within the Respiratory chapter in relation to the Blanket ULM Form for Asthma Guidelines which was approved last month at ADTC. This was agreed.</p>	
7.2	<p>West of Scotland Formulary Updates</p> <p>GI and Respiratory chapters have been approved by the Regional Formulary Committee.</p>	

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	<p>Several SMC decisions were also approved regionally at this meeting and these will be included in the relevant chapters. NHSL can now update our NHSL designation of these. Timelines were also discussed, with the planned formal launch date proposed as 15/4/26.</p> <p>The committee acknowledged the amount of work carried out by the Regional Formulary Team and the robust processes that have been put in place for the development and approval of the chapters.</p>	
BREAK (10 MINUTES)		
8.	Clinical Protocols & Guidelines	
	<p>a. Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) Guideline University Hospital Hairmyres – John O’Donoghue*</p> <p>LC discussed the need for site specific guidance due to the use of different PCA pump devices. Several of the group raised concerns around the use of different guidelines on different sites. KS highlighted there is a function to have separate sections on RDS for each site, and make the landing text clear which site it refers to. It was agreed that while not ideal, there may be some instances where site specific guidance is necessary, but this would not be the standard.</p> <p>A number of small amendments were requested.</p> <p>The document was not approved at this time.</p> <p>b. Acute Management of Parkinson’s Patients with impaired swallow or nil by mouth – Aimee Douglas</p> <p>This is an update to a previously approved document. It was acknowledged this was a helpful and comprehensive document.</p> <p>This was approved pending a minor amendment.</p> <p>c. Rheumatology Intravenous Tocilizumab Dose Banding & Intravenous Infliximab Dose Banding for Adult Patients 3mg/kg, 5mg/kg and 10mg/kg - Hannah Rae</p> <p>GR presented these. This would bring treatment with biologic medicines in NHSL in line with national guidance for dose banding.</p> <p>Some small point were raised.</p> <p>Both documents were approved pending these minor amendments.</p> <p>d. Clozapine Information for On-Call Pharmacists and Prescribers – Lorna Templeton*</p> <p>This is an updated to previously approved guidance. This was approved.</p> <p>e. Guideline for Intramuscular Medication for Acute Behavioural Disturbance</p> <p>This was approved pending some minor amendments.</p> <p>Guidance for Prescribing and Administration of As Required Oral Psychotropic Medication</p> <p>This is an update to previously approved guidance. This was approved pending minor amendments.</p> <p>KS gave an update regarding the move of clinical records from FirstPort to the RDS site. This will make it easier to link clinical records and forms with guidelines.</p> <p>f. Magnesium Sulphate for neuroprotection of the pre-term fetus – Gordon Buchanan</p> <p>This is an update to a previously approved document.</p>	

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	<p>This was approved following minor amendments.</p> <p>g. MVA (manual vacuum aspiration)– Gordon Buchanan A query was raised regarding the use of off-label mepivacaine. LM informed the committee this is established practice, so no further ULM paperwork is required. This was approved following minor amendments.</p> <p>h. Admission and discharge of Methadone/Buprenorphine guideline – Duncan Hill There were requests for a number of small amendments. This was approved pending these amendments.</p> <p>i. Homely Remedies Guidance – Claire Osprey It was noted this is an update to a recently, previously approved document, however a few small amendments have been carried out. This was approved following minor amendments.</p> <p>j. NHS Lanarkshire PGD Template – Elise O’Donnell This is an update to a previously approved document. This was approved.</p>	
9.	ULM Requests	
	<p>a. Blanket ULM form for benzotropine injection – Lorna Templeton* This was approved.</p> <p>b. Blanket ULM form for pirenzepine – Lorna Templeton* A concern was raised around the potential for GP’s starting to prescribe this for similar unrelated situations. It was discussed that the current ULM process includes a form which should be completed by the specialist alongside a patient consent form, which details the item to be used, the indication and any monitoring required. This request was agreed in principle, but there are some concerns around the processes and who will be responsible for the prescriptions and any safety monitoring that will need to be further discussed offline. This was not approved.</p> <p>c. Denosumab ULM – Linda Johnstone* This was approved.</p>	
10.	New Medicine Safety Notifications & Alerts	MM
	<p>a. CAS - Home https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update</p>	
11.	Prescribing Management Board Update	GRB
11.1	nil	
12.	Medicines for the Treatment of Cancer	KB
	<p>a. RCAG PASG – Health Board Advice December 2025 These were approved.</p>	
13.	Medicines Code of Practice	
	<p>a. Controlled Drug Governance Group nil</p>	GB
14.	PGD Activity Report	

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	<p>a. PGD Activity Report RK outlined the updates to the Lanarkshire PGD Database in the month of February, and highlighted the new Expiry Risk Position section of the report. RK gave a summary of recently expired and soon to be expired PGDs to the committee, including PGDs from Radiology, Infertility Services, Maternity Services and Sexual Health. The recent medicines recall for gastrograffin was discussed in relation to the Radiology PGDs.</p> <p>b. SBAR: Planned Withdrawal of Palliative Care Grab Bags – Linda Johnstone CP gave an update regarding current work on this. The results from the audits show that there are a number of limitations with the use of the grab bags, and reinforce why a planned withdrawal is required. The plans centre around enhanced Anticipatory Care planning and there will be additional training to support this. It was discussed there would be no additional ask from GP colleagues. It was agreed there should be consistency across both primary and secondary care. The committee approved all 3 recommendations and asked for a further update in due course.</p> <p>c. Vaccine Group Directions - Barry Melia This was noted. A further update is expected from the Public Health Team in due course.</p>	
15.	Antimicrobial Management Team Update	SD
	<p>a. Primary care antimicrobial guidelines – Amy Thomson SD gave an overview. This is an update to the policies currently available. This chapter of the formulary is currently under review by the WoS Regional Formulary committee, and it was confirmed the plan is to align with the recommendations. It was noted that there a number of differences in the proposed guidance to the draft regional plans, and it was felt it would be confusing to clinicians if this updated guidance were to be published then the WoS chapter launch shortly after. It was agreed that further discussion on alignment would be helpful. SD will take this forward. This was not approved.</p>	
16.	Lay member related items	
	nil	
17.	Correspondence	
	nil	
18.	AOCB	
	<p>a. Levemir Insulin Discontinuation. A request was received from NHSL Primary Care Prescribing Lead regarding data sharing of patient CHI numbers with the Specialist Diabetic services to facilitate review of patients and prevent delays in obtaining replacement insulin. Normally each GP practice should give consent to sharing of this information, which can take time. It was agreed that it is important for diabetic patients to maintain their treatment. TS was supportive of a blanket authorisation to share CHI data with the Diabetic service to enable timely management of this group of patients, with Mark Russell contacted for authorisation.</p>	
19.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 22 nd April 2026 10am-12.30pm MS TEAMS	