

## Minutes of meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 9-12am,

### Board Room, The Durham Centre

#### Present:

- Ian Davidson (ID) Medical Director, North Durham CCG & Chair of NTAG.
- Gavin Mankin (PGM) Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management, RDTG (professional secretary)
- Matthew Grove (MG) Consultant Rheumatologist, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.
- Toks Sangowawa (TS) Clinical Advisor/Locum Consultant in Public Health, South Tyneside MBC.
- Nick Timlin (NT) General Medical Practitioner, Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG.
- Claire Sands (CS) Assistant Head of Finance, Newcastle Gateshead CCG.
- Siobhan Brown (SB), Chief Operating Officer, Northumberland CCG
- Simon Thomas (ST) Consultant Physician, Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust

In Attendance: Nil

Apologies were received in advance from: Tim Donaldson, Ewan Maule, Joe Corrigan, Andrew Lloyd, and Andrea Loudon

The group noted that as apologies from one of the provider representatives had been received the meeting would not be quorate however PGM stated that he would run all decisions by the full membership prior to issuing them.

No declarations were received prior to the meeting on receipt of the agenda and when the Chair invited any declarations of interest to be made none were declared.

#### 1) Draft Minutes February 2019 Meeting

The group approved the February 2019 minutes.

<b>ACTION: Secretary to publish February 2019 minutes on the NTAG website.</b>
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#### 2) Matters Arising

NTAG Terms of Reference – the updated Terms of Reference went to the March 2019 meeting of the Northern CCG Joint Committee and were approved. NTAG remains accountable to the Northern CCG Joint Committee and they were happy to receive an annual report on the work NTAG rather than an update after each NTAG meeting. With regard to the remit and need for NTAG they agreed there was still a role for NTAG particularly around medical devices and other technologies falling outside of NICE/RMO, and also for NTAG to be the route for adoption of RMO New Drug Recommendations regionally. There was some discussion around public/patient engagement in the NTAG process and was suggested NTAG seek to engage with appropriate patient groups when producing appraisal reports on particular topics.

### 3) Draft Appraisal: Liposuction for Lipoedema and Lymphoedema

The draft appraisal report was introduced by the secretary. This had been added to the work plan at the request of the IFR panels due to number of recent of IFRs received.

NTAG members were asked for their comments on the draft and any further information they would require to reach a decision.

The group asked if the appraisal could address the following questions:

- What is definition of functional disabilities?
- How many times per patient can liposuction be used in these patients?
- Identify which specific patient types may be benefit.
- Define some criteria for IFR panels to use when assessing requests for funding for liposuction for these patients in terms of possible benefit.
- Indication of potential patient numbers in North East & North Cumbria.
- Check costings for treatment at another centre in UK.

**ACTION: RDTC to update appraisal and bring to September 2019 NTAG for full discussion.**

### 4) Alfapump NTAG Recommendation (updated)

An update to NTAG recommendation for Alfapump from 2016 to include new trial data and new NICE IPG631 published in Nov 2018 was presented to and approved by NTAG. The group noted that only the clinical evidence section has been updated to reflect the new evidence that is available but that this and the new NICE interventional procedures guidance does to require a change to the recommendation on the use of Alfapump.

**ACTION: Secretary to publish updated NTAG recommendation for Alfapump.**

### 5) North East North Cumbria Flash Glucose Monitoring – Position Statement

An updated NTAG statement was agreed by email and published 16.4.2019 to support new NHSE criteria for use of Flash Glucose Monitoring as of 1.4.2019. Then at a meeting of the NENC CCG Joint Committee on 2nd May 2019 it was agreed that CCGs would endorse the NTAG Position Statement on Flash Glucose Monitoring.

The updated position statement including letter templates to be used by specialists when requesting GPs to prescribe has now been circulated by NECS to commissioners, CCGs, and Trusts.

NTAG discussed and approved two minor amendments to its guidance:

- A request from GPs to make this statement clearer:  
“Primary care prescribers should only be asked to prescribe sensors by specialist, and should only agree to prescribe, if specialist confirms patient meets criteria for initiation AND specialist confirms they meet criteria for continuation at 6 months.” – concern that may be read as GP only to prescribe after 6 months, though NECS statement clarifies this.

- A request to clarify this this statement as it may be misread:  
“Previous self-funders of Flash Glucose Monitors with Type 1 diabetes where the diabetes specialist is NOT satisfied that their clinical history suggests that they would have satisfied one or more of the NHSE criteria prior to them commencing use of Flash Glucose Monitoring had these criteria been in place prior to April 2019 AND they have NOT shown an improvement in HbA1c since self-funding will not be entitled to NHS prescriptions.” – agreed to replace with exact wording from NHSE guidance

NTAG noted that an FAQ from NHSE and NHSCC covering waste issues is expected to be published anytime.

**ACTION: Secretary to make minor amendments to NTAG statement on Flash Glucose Monitoring and publish.**

## 6) Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee

A verbal update on the Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees was given to the group. Their workplan and agendas can be found on the Specialist Pharmacy Services website.

## 7) NTAG Membership

### a) Secondary Care vacancies

Following the last NTAG meeting the North East & Cumbria Chief Pharmacists network have been approached again to seek a new provider Trust representative to attend NTAG but no response has been received as yet.

### b) Primary care medicines vacancies

Still to contact stakeholder CCGs to seek a named deputy for the current GP representatives to NTAG.

**ACTION:**  
**Secretary to contact North East & Cumbria Chief Pharmacists Network to continue to seek one new provider Trust representative to attend NTAG.**

**ID/GM to write to stakeholder CCGs to seek a named deputy for the current GP representatives to NTAG.**

## 8) Work Plan.

The group discussed the work plan.

It was agreed to add the following to the workplan for the September 2019 meeting:

- Patiromer for hyperkalaemia - NICE guidance delayed with no date expected date of publication
- Andexanet alfa - Anticoagulation reversal - antidote to oral factor Xa inhibitors - NICE guidance due March 2020 so may need local position if launched before then.
- Buprenorphine long acting injection (Buvidal®) – await to see to be reviewed by RMOC.

- More technologically capable BGM devices – some CCGs/APCs have already approved some of these & most APCs have their own BGM guidelines already so agreed not for NTAG.
- Insulin glargine biosimilar (Semglee®) – agreed not to review as second biosimilar. NTAG will generally look only at the first biosimilar in a drug class.

## 9) NTAG Annual Report June 2019 – draft

NTAG Annual Report for 2017/18 was presented to and approved by the group.

**ACTION: Secretary to send NTAG Annual Report 2017/18 to Northern CCG Joint Committee and publish on website.**

## 10) Impact on Primary Care Prescribing Data of NTAG Recommendations from 2017 and 2018

Data on number of items/spend in each stakeholder CCG on NTAG recommendations from 2017 to 2018 having an impact on primary care prescribing presented for to the group for information.

NTAG agreed it was useful to review this information on six monthly basis to monitor the impact of its recommendations, and asked that similar information be sourced from secondary care particular around those drugs which are exclusions and are being recharged to primary care.

**ACTION:**  
**Secretary to source impact on secondary care prescribing data of NTAG recommendations from 2018 and 2018**

**Secretary to share primary care data with stakeholder CCG Medicines Optimisation Teams**

## 11) AOB

Nil

No other business was raised and the meeting concluded.

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

*Minutes produced by G Mankin, Professional Secretary to NTAG, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019*