

## Minutes of meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 9-10.05am

### Virtual Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

#### Present:

- Ian Davidson (ID) Medical Director, County Durham CCG & Chair of NTAG.
- Gavin Mankin (PGM) Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management, RDTTC (professional secretary)
- Matthew Grove (MG) Consultant Rheumatologist, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.
- Siobhan Brown (SB), Chief Operating Officer, Northumberland CCG.
- Claire Sands (CS) Assistant Head of Finance, Newcastle Gateshead CCG.
- Nick Timlin (NT) General Medical Practitioner, Tees Valley CCG
- Simon Thomas (ST) Consultant Physician, Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust
- Robert Lapham (RL) Formulary Pharmacist, South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.
- Jim Welch (JW) Patient/Lay Representative.
- Ian Morris (IM) Senior Clinical Services Manager, NECS
- Andrew Lloyd (AL) Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of South Tees D&T, The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH).
- Tim Donaldson (TM) Chief Pharmacist, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust.
- Sarrah Seldon (SS) Senior Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, Sunderland CCG.

#### In Attendance:

Monica Mason, Head of Prescribing Support, RDTTC

Apologies were received from: Helena Gregory, Toks Sangowawa, Joe Corrigan

The meeting was quorate.

Declarations of Interest: Matthew Grove declared a professional interest in Item 6 as a consultant working in rheumatology but agreed this did not have an impact on his participation in this particular agenda item.

#### 1) Draft Minutes February 2021 Meeting

The group approved the February 2021 minutes.

<b>ACTION: Secretary to publish February 2021 minutes on the NTAG website.</b>
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#### 2) Matters Arising

- Review of NTAG recommendation on Sodium oxybate (Xyrem®) in the management of narcolepsy with cataplexy in adult patients in light of RMOC position statement - awaiting RMOC statement on Pitolisant before progressing as may change place in therapy and costings now generic Sodium oxybate available.
- Review of NTAG recommendations relating to the eye – awaiting feedback from NE Retina Group as to which recommendations require review. Will follow this up in autumn 2021.

- Cost Modelling of Type 2 Diabetes Medicines (e.g. SGLT2, GLP-1s) in ASCVD, Heart Failure and CKD – still no date as yet to when NICE may update their guidelines. The Regional Diabetes Network/Clinical Network are forming a group to look at regional guidelines and will hold a first meeting in July 2021. CCG MO Leads drafted an options/position statement to go to CCG Chief Finance Officers.
- Updated Flash Glucose Monitoring Recommendation – Chair's Action was taken as agreed post February 2021 NTAG meeting, and updated recommendation currently with regional VBC group for regional VBC policy and VBC checker to be updated.

### **3) Appraisal: Perampanel partial-onset seizures (POS) with or without secondarily generalised seizures in patients from 4 years of age and older, and primary generalised tonic-clonic (PGTC) seizures in patients from 7 years of age and older with idiopathic generalised epilepsy (IGE).**

NTAG reviewed the current NTAG recommendation from November 2012 for perampanel (Fycompa®) for focal epilepsy following its license extension in November 2020.

The original product license from June 2012 was for adjunctive treatment of partial-onset seizures, with or without secondarily generalised seizures, in patients with epilepsy aged 12 years and older. On the 10th November 2020 a license extension was granted for: partial-onset seizures (POS) with or without secondarily generalised seizures in patients from 4 years of age and older AND primary generalised tonic-clonic (PGTC) seizures in patients from 7 years of age and older with idiopathic generalised epilepsy (IGE).

NTAG noted that is no direct head-to-head comparative evidence between perampanel and any other antiepileptic agents. There is also no long term data or study outcomes to indicate the impact of taking perampanel as adjunctive therapy, on cognition and growth in the paediatric population aged between 4 and 12 years of age.

It is estimated that within the North East region approximately 30-40 children will be prescribed perampanel under the extended license.

**NTAG agreed to update its current recommendation for perampanel to approve use as per the updated product license extension. Perampanel should only be when other treatment options recommended by NICE have been tried or fully considered. The group recommends that perampanel should only be initiated by specialists.**

**ACTION: Secretary to update recommendation as above.**

### **4) Andexanet alfa – to archive recommendation**

NTAG noted its recommendation for Andexanet alfa (Ondexxya®), Factor Xa inhibitor antidote from September 2019 will now archived as now superseded by NICE TA approving use for use of gastrointestinal bleeds. Previously it was not recommended by NTAG in September 2019.

**ACTION: Secretary to archive current NTAG recommendation.**

## **5) Review of Current NTAG Recommendation for Dupilumab and Omalizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps.**

NTAG reviewed the current NTAG recommendation from December 2020 for Dupilumab and Omalizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps as in February 2021 NICE TA678 - Omalizumab for treating chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps was a terminated NICE appraisal.

**NTAG approved an updated NTAG recommendation to include reference to NICE being unable to issue a recommendation on the use of Omalizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. NTAG noted that no change to recommendation itself that NTAG does not recommend the use of Dupilumab or Omalizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP).**

**ACTION: Secretary to update recommendation as above.**

## **6) Review of Current NTAG Recommendation for Infliximab subcutaneous injection (Remsima SC ®)**

In June 2020 NTAG recommended Remsima SC® be available as additional treatment option during the COVID-19 pandemic for both licensed and off-label uses as part individual hospital Trust management strategies to reduce hospital day case admissions, and keep immunosuppressed people out of hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Remsima SC® could be considered as an option where the patient would otherwise get the intravenous Remsima® formulation of Infliximab. This recommendation is subject to any off-label use of Remsima SC® being considered and approved via individual hospital trust governance processes (including clinical governance) for the use of unlicensed/off-label drugs. It was also agreed that this recommendation would be reviewed after 12 months.

As 12 months have now passed NTAG reviewed the current recommendation together with data on uptake by Trusts within the region.

**NTAG agreed to make no changes to current NTAG recommendation as still in Covid-19 pandemic but review again in six months' time. Infliximab subcutaneous injection should continue to remain an option at this time due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.**

**ACTION: Secretary to update recommendation as above.**

## **7) Update of Current NTAG Recommendation for Transanal Irrigation**

NTAG reviewed its current recommendation on transanal irrigation to reflect the last product availability and costs.

Peristeen® is being discontinued by the manufacturer from July 2021 and replaced by an updated version called Peristeen plus®. There will be a 6 month transition period to facilitate switching of existing patients. Clinically Peristeen® and Peristeen plus® are the same, and there are no cost implications from this change as Peristeen® and Peristeen plus® cost the same. Patients currently on Peristeen® should be switched to Peristeen plus® when they are next due their 6 monthly supply of Peristeen® control unit to avoid waste. It was noted that Peristeen® catheters/tubes are not interchangeable with Peristeen plus® control unit and vice versa so need to ensure patient gets the correct catheters/tubes to go with the control unit they currently have.

**NTAG reviewed and agreed to update the current NTAG recommendation for Transanal Irrigation replacing Peristeen® with Peristeen Plus®.**

**ACTION: Secretary to update recommendation as above.**

### **8) Update of Current NTAG Recommendation for Non-invasive transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (nVNS) for treatment of cluster headache and migraine.**

NTAG reviewed the current NTAG recommendation for Non-invasive transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (nVNS) for treatment of cluster headache and migraine in light of change in funding arrangements from 1st April 2021 from NHS England to CCGs.

As of 1st April 2021 Non-invasive transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (nVNS) (Gammacore) for treatment of cluster headache is funded by CCGs and not by NHS England through the MedTech Funding Mandate policy.

**NTAG agreed to update its current recommendation to reflect the change in funding arrangements.**

**ACTION: Secretary to update recommendation as above.**

### **9) NTAG Annual Report 2020/21**

NTAG Annual Report for 2020/21 was presented to and approved by the group.

**ACTION: Secretary to send NTAG Annual Report 2020/21 to Northern CCG Joint Committee.**

### **10) Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee**

A verbal update on the Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee was given.

### **11) Work Plan**

The group discussed the work plan.

- Buprenorphine long acting injection (Buvidal®) – RMOC South have now published their commissioning support guidance and the regional public health pharmacists are preparing a submission for the September 2021 NTAG meeting.
- Inhaled levodopa for Parkinson's disease – still awaiting confirmation that product will be launched in the UK.
- Melatonin - Review of evidence of base for each indication. Plus guidance on need for review when transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. It was noted that a NICE evidence summary on melatonin for sensory dysfunction is currently in progress to support plan for RMOC to issue a commissioning support guidance document on melatonin. Therefore agreed to remove from NTAG workplan as RMOC hopefully now looking at.

- Biosimilar insulin aspart – first one has now been launched so a review will be prepared to September 2021 NTAG meeting.
- Lurasidone (review on basis of SMC and AWMSG approval) plus include license extension in children – working with CNTW and TEVV to bring something to September 2021 NTAG meeting.
- Insulin Pumps – suggested as topic but agreed to link in with regional diabetes device group instead to prevent duplication of work.
- Action Reliever Knee Brace – agreed not to add to NTAG workplan because as a medical device no clinical evidence for NTAG to consider for this particular brand of device, and in 12 months only 13 items £2357 issued in NE&NC so considered not to meet threshold for NTAG to look at. Braces are included as an option in NICE osteoarthritis guidelines but alongside many other treatment/management options. Felt that use should only be on the recommendation of a physio.
- No other topics yet identified

## 12) Review of Current NTAG Terms of Reference and Membership

The NTAG Terms of Reference were last updated in November 2018, and although due for review the group had previously decided to wait until the proposed ICS structures were more fully developed. It was agreed that it would now be sensible to undertake this review, given the ICS infrastructure and commissioning arrangements due to be in place from April 2022. It was proposed that NTAG as a well-established and respected group with significant experience in the development of NENC system wide medicines optimisation guidance, should continue as an ICS-wide medicines optimisation group, but widening its role and membership to enable it to support the development and implementation of system wide guidance and pathway development. The role of the group within the proposed NHSE MO structures and its future relationship with the RMOC was highlighted.

The role of NTAG in monitoring the cost effective use of medicines and treatments and their intended outcomes across NENC, and in turn providing regular assurance to the ICS board was supported by the group and this expanded role will be incorporated. It was agreed that RDTG as the professional secretariat undertake the necessary conversations with ICS and system medicines leads and return a paper detailing the proposed revisions to the form and function of NTAG at the September meeting.

**ACTION: RDTG to undertake the actions as described above and to return a paper to the September NTAG meeting following discussions with the relevant ICS and system medicines leads.**

## 13) Aducanumab for mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease

NTAG discussed how the region may need to prepare for the approval of aducanumab. The current opinion is that the drug will be CCG-commissioned, probably via old age psychiatry services. Mental health services, however, have never had to provide a tariff-excluded drug to patients before and therefore do not, at present, have the mechanisms in place to manage this service. It is also given by monthly IV infusion and IV administration is something that mental health trusts do not normally do.

This new drug is still to be licensed in the UK and it is not a given that it will be licensed.

NTAG noted that concerns been expressed around the evidence base and this drug will require careful assessment by NICE if it is to be introduced into the NHS.

NTAG discussed and noted the commissioning implications that this drug would have if approved in the UK and agreed for the need to start discussions on how the system may need to prepare for the approval of aducanumab plus how to raise awareness with providers/commissioners that it may be coming.

**NTAG members agreed to raise awareness within their organisations and professional networks as appropriate.**

**ACTION: NTAG members to raise awareness of Aducanumab and commissioning implications within their organisations and professional networks as appropriate.**

**ACTION: CS to raise awareness at regional CCG Directors of Finance meeting.**

#### **14) Updated NTAG Website**

NTAG noted that the RDTC have a new website provider/developer so will be updating look of NTAG website in the coming months.

#### **15) AOB**

No other business was raised and the meeting concluded.

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

*Minutes produced by G Mankin, Professional Secretary to NTAG, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021*