

Minutes of meeting held on the 19th July 2022, 9-11am

Virtual Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present:

- Ewan Maule – Interim Lead Pharmacist NENC ICB & Chair of NTAG.
- Gavin Mankin - Principal Pharmacist Medicines Management, RDTC (professional secretary)
- Claire Sands - Assistant Head of Finance, former Newcastle Gateshead CCG.
- Robert Lapham - Formulary Pharmacist, South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.
- Jim Welch - Patient/Lay Representative.
- Helena Gregory - Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist and Clinical Quality Team Lead North Cumbria.
- Matthew Lowery - Formulary Pharmacist, Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust.
- Matthew Grove - Consultant Rheumatologist, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.
- Andrew Lloyd - Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of South Tees D&T, The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH).
- Sarrah Seldon - Senior Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, Sunderland.
- David Campbell - Chief Pharmacist, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Chair of North of Tyne, Gateshead, and North Cumbria APC.
- Chris Williams – Chief Pharmacist, TEWV.
- Neil Middleton – GP, County Durham.
- Jo Linton – Public Health Pharmacy Advisor, Stockton & Hartlepool.
- Helen Seymour – NENC AHSN Medicines Optimisation Workstream Lead.
- Robin Mitchell – Medical Director, NENC Clinical Network.
- Rachel McMahon – GP, NENC Regional LMC representative.

In Attendance:

- Dan Newsome (DN) Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management, RDTC
- Barry Hogan – RDTC Admin Team – sharing papers on the screen.

The meeting was quorate.

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the interim NTAG, and a round of introductions were made.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Toks Sangowawa, Tim Donaldson, Colin Bradshaw

2) Declarations of Interest

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.

3) Draft Minutes June 2022 Meeting

The group approved the minutes of the 7th June 2022 NTAG meeting with no changes.

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| ACTION: Secretary to publish June 2022 minutes on the NTAG website. |
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4) 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 – still awaiting RMOC statement on Pitolisant before progressing as may change place in therapy and costings now generic Sodium oxybate available. Chased up with RMOC Secretariat in January 2022. Unclear if RMOC will publish anything on Pitolisant. Agreed to add this September 2022 NTAG agenda for discussion and review of current NTAG recommendation on sodium oxybate even if RMOC statement on Pitolisant not available.
- Review of NTAG recommendations relating to the eye – still awaiting feedback from NE Retina Group as to which recommendations require review.
- NENC DOAC Decision Aid for Atrial Fibrillation – has now been published and circulated to local APCs for adoption/dissemination following approval from NENC Cardiac Network post June 2022 NTAG meeting.
- Type 2 Diabetes Guidance including SGLT2i – adoption of NICE guidance in the NENC was approved from financial perspective by NENC ICB Executive last week. Meeting arranged with Diabetes Network to discuss implementation, management of financial risk, and monitoring of update vs health inequalities.

5) Appeals Against Previous NTAG Decisions

Nil received since last meeting.

6) NTAG Interim Terms of Reference

NTAG reviewed its current Terms of Reference and membership as the new NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care System has come into place replacing CCGs.

The aim is for NTAG to become the designated North East & North Cumbria ICS Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Sub-Committee with some delegated authority, including financial delegation, from the ICB via the ICB Medicines Committee.

In the future the remit of NTAG will include the approval of regional pathways/guidelines for medicines, not just making recommendations on new drugs.

NTAG will in the future be accountable to the NENC Medicines Committee, which in turn is accountable to the NENC Integrated Care Board. Until the NENC Medicines Committee is in place NTAG will be accountable to the NENC Integrated Care Board in the interim.

It is suggested that NTAG work in collaboration with three NENC Area Prescribing Committees to do some things once across the ICS in the interim which would benefit from a single decision across the ICS. Separate discussions are taking place on the possibility of moving to one single ICS formulary but there are no timescales for this, and discussions are still at an early stage.

It is proposed that NTAG operates in an interim form with slight expansion/change in current membership until the NENC Medicines Committee and wider ICS Medicines Optimisation Structure is in place.

Going forward the interim terms of reference will require regular update as ICB governance processes become clear. The membership of NTAG will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect its new remit.

The membership of NTAG is currently in a state of flux in this interim period. It was noted that Siobhan Brown as now stepped down from NTAG following a change in role within the ICB. A replacement from commissioning will be considered once more is known about ICB structures and as part of the ongoing review of the interim NTAG terms of reference. Going forward the importance of NTAG having a balanced membership including clinicians was discussed. Finance membership in the future may also need to include a representative from “place”, as well as from the corporate ICB side. It was discussed too about including quality and safety representatives in the membership. The quoracy for NTAG meeting will also need to be better defined.

After discussion NTAG approved its interim terms of reference and agreed to keep on its agenda for regular review as the ICB matures.

ACTION: Secretary to make suggested changes and publish on NTAG website.

ACTION: Secretary to add to September 2022 NTAG agenda for ongoing review/update as ICB structures develop.

7) NTAG Guidance – What Treatments will NTAG Consider?

NTAG reviewed its guidance document on what treatments it will consider.

The inclusion of medical devices was discussed. It was noted that there is currently no other obvious place for devices to be reviewed in the ICB so keeping within NTAG remit for now was agreed. It was agreed to tighten the wording on what devices would be considered by NTAG i.e. those in drug tariff with potential for high impact in terms of cost or requests for prescribing.

The document was approved subject to including consideration of impact on workload, services, and existing treatment pathways. The document will be reviewed again once ICB structures become clearer.

ACTION: Secretary to make suggested changes and publish on NTAG website.

8) NTAG Checklist for Appraisal of Clinical Evidence

NTAG reviewed its current checklist for the appraisal of clinical evidence

The document was approved subject to inclusion of the following:

- Consideration of sustainability issues
- Consideration of deprescribing/polypharmacy
- Consideration of impact on health inequalities and need to reduce these.

ACTION: Secretary to make suggested changes and publish on NTAG website.

9) New NOGG Guideline for the Management of Osteoporosis

NTAG discussed the latest NOGG Guideline for the Management of Osteoporosis and the implications for using teriparatide outside of its current NICE Technology Appraisal.

The NOGG guideline for management of osteoporosis has been produced to support the recent NICE TA759 which approves 1st line use of romosozumab in patients with osteoporosis and recent fracture. This is a paradigm shift in osteoporosis management as it is moving a large cohort into secondary care for an initial year of biologic therapy. Controversially, the NOGG guidelines also suggest if patients are not suitable for 1st line romosozumab (principally those with substantial cardiovascular risk) should be considered for two years of the alternative anabolic drug biosimilar teriparatide.

After discussion it was agreed that Matt Grove would form a working group across the NENC to update osteoporosis guidelines across the region and consider the case for following NOGG guidelines to come back to a future NTAG meeting for approval.

ACTION: Matt Grove to form a working group across the NENC to update osteoporosis guidelines across the region and consider the case for following NOGG guidelines to come back to a future NTAG meeting for approval.

10) Regional Respiratory Network Clinical Consensus Document – At a Glance Carbon Footprint

Circulated for information. Noted that information on the carbon footprint of individual inhalers is available from the RDTTC Carbon Footprint inhaler tool and other asthma/COPD guidelines within the region.

General discussion on accessing the carbon footprint other medicines also took place and noted that work is ongoing nationally on this. When new drug applications are received then should be challenging industry to provide this information.

11) Biosimilar Ranibizumab

NTAG noted that biosimilar ranibizumab was licensed by the MHRA in May 2022 and will be available from September. The supporting documents recently published by the Specialised Pharmacy Service were shared with NTAG members for information.

NTAG agreed that its general biosimilars statement approved at the June 2022 supported the introduction of all biosimilars and there was no further action for NTAG. It was agreed to leave to individual Trusts to manage introduction into clinical practice. Trusts have an incentive to do this because of the cost efficiencies that could be achieved under their current block contract for high cost drugs. It was noted that NuTH are looking to adopt as soon as possible, and discussions are still to take place in South Tyneside & Sunderland. Noted that use of licensed biosimilar ranibizumab is now preferred over unlicensed bevacizumab.

ACTION: Robert Lapham to take the SPS documents on biosimilar ranibizumab to South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust to discussion introducing local adoption.

12) Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee

It was noted that the national shared care guidelines for nineteen drugs including all the DMARDs for non-transplant indications were published by NHS England a week ago.

NTAG discussed how and when this shared care guidelines could be adopted in the NENC.

13) RDTC Monthly Formulary Amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – June 2022

Received for information.

Monthly Formulary Amendments Documents are a series of new publications from the RDTC for its Stakeholders. These monthly reports list any NICE Technology Appraisals, NICE Guidelines, RMOG Guidance, MHRA Drug Safety Updates, and National Patient Safety Alerts published in the previous calendar month which may have an impact on local formularies and guidelines. This document is for APCs, and formulary committees to ensure formularies remain up to date, and in line with latest NICE guidance and safety information. It includes a suggested formulary position for APCs/Formulary Committees, together with a summary of any financial/commissioning implications. The purpose of the document is to support consistent decision making by APCs.

It was agreed to make this an NTAG standing agenda item.

14) NoT APC Decision Summary – July 2022

Received for information.

Noted that currently NTAG has no delegated decision making powers so are unable to ratify APC decisions at present.

It was discussed that currently there is nowhere in the ICB for APC decisions to be ratified in the interim now that CCGs no longer exist.

15) Workplan

The group discussed the work plan.

It agreed to add the following topics:

- Osteoporosis Guideline – to produce a NENC osteoporosis guideline based on the latest NOGG guideline

16) County Durham & Tees APC Minutes – May 2022

Circulated for information.

17) South Tyneside & Sunderland APC Minutes – June 2022

Circulated for information.

18) North of Tyne, Gateshead & North Cumbria APC Minutes – July 2022

Circulated for information.

AOB

No other business was raised, and the meeting concluded.

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be 6th September 2022 and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes produced by G Mankin, Professional Secretary to NTAG, 19th July 2022