

Minutes of meeting held on 18th July 2023, 9am-10.10am

Virtual online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Position	Lead	Voting Member	July 2023
Chair	Dr Janet Walker <i>Medical Director, ICB</i>	Yes	✓
Secretary	Gavin Mankin, Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management, Regional Drug & Therapeutics Centre (Newcastle)	No	✓
Provider hospital trusts representative (2 x consultant, 2 x pharmacy plus Mental Health)	Mental Health Trust Chief Pharmacist <i>Chris Williams Chief Pharmacist Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Yes	✓
	Mental Health Trust Consultant <i>TBC</i>	Yes	
	Consultant <i>Dr Andrew Lloyd Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust D&T</i>	Yes	✓
	Consultant <i>Dr Simon Hill Consultant in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics and Clinical Toxicologist, NuTH</i>	Yes	✓
	Trust Chief Pharmacist <i>Jamie Harris Chief Pharmacist County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Yes	✓ From 9.20am
	Pharmacist <i>Al Green Formulary Pharmacist Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust</i>	Yes	✓
Primary Care (2 x GP, 2 x MO Pharmacist)	GP <i>Fadi Khalil ICB Clinical Lead with prescribing (Sunderland place)</i>	Yes	✓
	GP <i>Chris Jewitt Prescribing and LTC Clinical Lead (North)</i>	Yes	✓
	MO Pharmacist <i>Kate Huddart Head of Pharmacy and Medicines (Central)</i>	Yes	<i>Helena Gregory</i>
	MO Pharmacist <i>Angela Dixon Head of Pharmacy and Medicines (Tees Valley)</i>	Yes	✓
Paediatric representative	<i>Dr Yincen Tse Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Great North Children's Hospital</i>	Yes	✓
Finance representative	<i>Charles Welbourn Finance Director (North Cumbria)</i>	Yes	✓
Patient representative	<i>Jim Welch</i>	Yes	<i>Apols</i>
Public Health	<i>Dr Toks Sangowawa Clinical Advisor/Locum Consultant in Public Health, South Tyneside MBC Clinical Advisor IFR North</i>	Yes	✓

Local Authority Pharmacist (1 representing all stakeholder local authorities)	<i>Jo Linton Public Health Pharmacy Adviser Stockton and Hartlepool</i>	Yes	<i>Apols</i>
AHSN	<i>Helen Seymour NENC AHSN Medicines Optimisation Workstream Lead</i>	Yes	✓
LPC (1 representing all stakeholder LPCs)	<i>TBC</i>	Yes	
LMC (1 representing all stakeholder LPCs)	<i>Rachel McMahon</i>	Yes	✓
Chair of Formulary Working Group	<i>Shafie Kamaruddin Consultant County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Yes	✓
Professional Secretary of Formulary Working Group	<i>Matthew Lowery Formulary Pharmacist, NuTH</i>	Yes	✓
Chair of Guidelines and Pathways Group	<i>Matthew Grove Consultant Rheumatologist, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust</i>	Yes	✓
Professional Secretary Guidelines and Pathways Group	<i>Susan Turner Pharmacist, NECS</i>	Yes	✓

In attendance:

- Dan Newsome – Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management, RDTTC

The meeting was quorate.

Members were welcomed to the meeting. New members were welcomed to the meeting and thanks expressed to those who are no longer members for their contributions.

Part 1 – General business

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Jim Welch, Jo Linton, Kate Huddart.

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.

Annual Declaration of Interest forms for members to complete and return to the NTAG professional secretary will shortly be sent out.

3) Draft minutes May 2023 meeting

The group approved the minutes of the 16th May 2023 NTAG meeting.

ACTION: Secretary to submit May 2023 minutes to NENC Medicines Subcommittee.

4) Matters arising not on the agenda

Nil.

5) Action log

NTAG Annual Report 2022/2023

Secretary sent NTAG Annual Report 2022/23 to NENC ICB. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

RDTG monthly formulary amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – February + March 2023

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and all approved. Decision summary now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

Formulary applications

- Otinova® ear spray
- Itulazax
- Tinidazole

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and all recommendations approved. Decision summary now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

Other formulary amendments:

- Hydromol bath and shower emollient (CNTW request)

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and recommendations approved. Decision summary now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

Baricitinib for patients hospitalised due to COVID-19 (adults and children aged 2 years and over)

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and policy approved. Now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

IQoro device

NTAG agreed to recommend that the IQoro device should not be prescribed on prescription in the NENC. Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and recommendation approved. Decision summary now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC decision aid for DOACs for atrial fibrillation – due review

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and approved. Now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC regional guidance on type 2 diabetes

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and approved. Now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC Dronedaronone shared care guideline

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and approved. Now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC Sativex® share care guidelines

Sent to June 2023 Medicines subcommittee and approved. Now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC Osteoporosis guideline

Consultation now closed and comments received passed to author. Author to review comments and submit final version to new NENC Medicines Guidelines Subgroup.

Review of NTAG recommendation on sodium oxybate (Xyrem®) in the management of narcolepsy with cataplexy in adult patients in light of RMOC position statement

Secretary to request audit from NuTH and STHFT in 12 months' time and present this to NTAG in November 2023.

Teriparatide use outside of NICE guidance as per NOGG

April 2023 NENC Medicines Committee: The committee considered the recommendations made by NTAG at their March 2023 meeting. The committee was unable to support the recommendation made by NTAG concerning the use of teriparatide outside NICE guidance as per NOGG 2021 guidelines. It asked that further information pertaining to the cost impact and benefit of this use be returned to the Medicines Committee with full costed NENC osteoporosis pathway. No further action for NTAG

Formulary applications

- Tacalcitol lotion for psoriasis vulgaris
- Trifarotene cream for acne
- Ciclosporin 1mg/mL (0.1%) eye drops (Verkazia®) for severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis in children from 4 years of age and adolescents.
- Botulinum toxin for hernia
- Dihydroartemisinin/piperazine phosphate (Eurartesim®) for malaria

Recommendations were approved at April 2023 NENC Medicines Subcommittee and decision summary now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC regional guidance on SGLT2 inhibitors

Updated guideline approved at April 2023 NENC Medicines Subcommittee and guideline now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC ICB position statement non-palliative care use of opiates

Approved at April 2023 NENC Medicines Subcommittee and guideline now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

Single ICS formulary – approval

The new single NENC formulary went live on Friday. A briefing document has been sent out to all NTAG members and stakeholders across the NENC. A question was asked as to if there will be an NENC wide launch event for the formulary and the chair will raise this suggestion with the ICB Medical Director and Director of Pharmacy.

ITEM NOW CLOSED.

RDTIC monthly formulary amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – January 2023

Recommendations were approved at April 2023 NENC Medicines Subcommittee and now published on NTAG website. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

6) Appeals against previous NTAG decisions

Nil received since last meeting.

7) NTAG terms of reference

Following the changes in NTAG membership and changes to the governance structure for decision making around medicines in the NENC updated NTAG terms of reference were presented to and approved by the group. It was confirmed that the quorum of NTAG should be the 50% of members the same as the NENC Medicines subcommittee with at least one member from secondary care, and one from primary care.

Nominations are sought from the NTAG membership for a Vice-Chair. Members asking to consider and send nominations to the Chair/Secretary before the next NTAG meeting.

ACTION: Secretary to send updated NTAG terms of reference to NENC Medicines Subcommittee for approval.

ACTION: Chair to email NTAG members to seek a Vice-Chair for NTAG.

Part 2 – Formulary and RAG

8) RDTC monthly formulary amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – April + May 2023

The RDTC Monthly Formulary Amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – April + May 2023 were presented to NTAG to make a recommendation to the NENC Medicines Subcommittee on the formulary status and approval of medicines contained within these documents.

NICE TAs published in April 2023

- No ICB commissioned NICE TAs published in April 2023
- Been out for 4-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - South Tees Trust
 - South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust
 - Northumbria Trust
 - NuTH
 - QE Gateshead
 - Tees Valley
 - Sunderland place
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - CDDFT
 - North Cumbria Trust
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status in the RDTC Monthly Formulary Amendments April 2023 document. No barriers to implementation were raised.

NICE TAs published in May 2023

- All ICB commissioned NICE TAs published in May 2023 are not expected to have a significant cost impact and expected to fall below the £250,000 threshold of the ICB Director of Medicines and Pharmacy.
- Been out for 4-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - South Tees Trust

- CDDFT
 - Tees Valley
 - NHS England
- No response from:
 - Gateshead Trust
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust
 - NuTH
 - Northumbria Trust
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status in the RDTTC Monthly Formulary Amendments May 2023 document except that the various recommendations for NHSE Spec Comm treatments do not reflect regional or national commissioning requirements so the formulary entries will be updated to reflect these.
- No barriers to implementation were raised.

NTAG agreed with the suggested formulary status for each drug with a NICE TA published in April and May 2023.

ACTION: Secretary to send recommendations to August 2023 meeting of NENC Medicines Subcommittee for final sign off.

9) Formulary applications

Nil this month.

10) Other formulary amendments

Nil this month.

11) NHSE Specialised Commissioning Circulars

A list of NHSE Specialised Commissioning Circulars published since May 2023 was circulated for information. The formulary will reflect the NHSE Specialised Commissioning Circulars.

12) NTAG CGM position statement – review due to updated NICE guidance

NTAG reviewed its current position statement on Continuous Glucose Monitoring from November 2022 in light of updated NICE guidance published in May 2023 with new recommendations on blood glucose monitoring for children and young people with type 2 diabetes. The NICE guideline on diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people: diagnosis and management was updated in May 2023 and replaces the former guideline NG18 published in 2015. The updated guideline reviewed the evidence on glucose-lowering agents for managing blood glucose levels in children and young people with type 2 diabetes. It now recommends CGM for these patients to manage their blood glucose levels.

The number of children and young people with type 2 diabetes who will be eligible for CGM will also be relatively low. So, the recommendations to consider or offer CGM is unlikely to have a significant resource impact. NICE expect that the resource impact of this update:

- for any single guideline recommendation in England will be less than £1 million per year (or approximately £1,800 per 100,000 population, based on a population for England of 56.6 million people) and
- for implementing the whole guideline in England will be less than £5 million per year (or approximately £8,800 per 100,000 population, based on a population for England of 56.6 million people).

The Freestyle Libre 2 app is also currently being updated which means users will no longer need to scan the sensor making it a rtCGM device rather than an isCGM device. Those who use a reader device with Freestyle Libre 2 rather than a smartphone will still need to scan the device to get a glucose reading. There is no change to the drug tariff price of Freestyle Libre 2 sensors.

NTAG noted that a paper is working its way through the Medicines Subcommittee and ICB Executive Committee on removing CGM from the current NENC Value Based Commissioning Policy. This is because NICE guidance is now available and so felt including in the policy/VBC Checker is no longer appropriate.

Discussion took place on concerns re impact on GP workload with move to those CGM devices in Drug Tariff being prescribed/initiated in primary care. Additional concerns were raised around training for GPs on these devices. It was noted that the NENC Diabetes Network has been working to address training needs with the support of manufacturers. The chair agreed to raise these concerns with the ICB Medical Directors.

NTAG agreed to recommend approval of the updated NTAG position statement on CGM subject to:

- **Still including sentence on disposal of sensors.**
- **Formatting section on use in children & young people to split into Type 1 and Type 2 for clarity.**

ACTION: Secretary to send updated recommendation to June 2023 meeting of NENC Medicines Subcommittee for final sign off.

ACTION: Chair to pick issues raised around CGM workload/initiation and training in primary care with ICB Medical Directors.

Part 3 – Pathways and clinical guidelines

13) NENC regional SGLT2 top tips - update to include TA902

The North East Guideline for Use of Sodium Glucose Co-Transporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) in Adults was approved in April 2023 and had a minor update in June 2023 to include adults in the title. The NENC Type 2 Diabetes Guidelines in Adults were approved in June 2023.

Both have now been updated to include NICE TA902: Dapagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction, published: 21 June 2023. This has resulted in some slight changes to the tables within the two documents.

TA902 is currently out for consultation with all the NICE TAs published in June 2023 with proposed formulary status of Green+ (the same as TA679: Dapagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction published in Feb 2021). NICE estimate that:

- Around 326 people per 100,000 population are eligible
- Around 100 people per 100,000 will receive dapagliflozin from year 3 onwards once uptake has reached 30%

The estimated cost impact is £15,000 per 100,000 population in year 1, rising to £47,000 in year 3 onwards. This does not include costs or savings associated with clinical outcomes (e.g. hospitalisations, cardiovascular deaths) or adverse events (e.g. AKI, UTI). Depending on uptake, this TA has potential to be overall cost saving.

A question was raised about the reference to QRISK-2 in the SGLT2i top tips document as QRISK-3 is now available. It was confirmed post meeting that NICE NG28 still refers to QRISK-2 and is still to be updated. The top tips document therefore currently reflects the wording and treatment algorithms in NICE NG28. Updated NICE guidance on the management of type 2 diabetes in adults is expected in 2024.

NTAG agreed to recommended approval of the updates to the SGLT2i top tips document and the NENC Type 2 Diabetes Guidelines in Adults to reflect NICE TA902. These will updates will go for approval to the NENC Medicines Subcommittee once the consultation on all the NICE TAs published in June 2023 closes.

ACTION: Secretary to send recommendation to NENC Medicines Subcommittee for final sign off when the NICE TAs from June 2023 are submitted to the NENC Medicines Subcommittee.

Part 4 – Shared care

14) Nil this month

Part 5 - Updates from Subgroups

15) NENC Formulary Working Group

A verbal update on the first meeting of the new NENC Formulary Working Group was given. The first meeting discussed processes and terms of reference for the group.

16) NENC Medicines Guidelines Group

The minutes of the first meeting of the new NENC Medicines Guidelines Group were circulated for information.

Part 6 – Workplan and horizon scanning

17) RDTC monthly horizon scanning May and June 2023

NTAG received the RDTC monthly horizon scanning report for May and June 2023 for information. It noted there was nothing contained within it to add to the current NTAG workplan. The formulary working group will be considering the new dispersible tablet formulation for riluzole.

18) Work plan

The group discussed the work plan.

Standing items (for information only)

19) Nil this month.

NTAG chair's action since last NTAG meeting

20) NENC regional SGLT2 top tips v1.2 - NTAG approved March 2023 - update June 2023

Minor updated to included adults in title and update one weblink plus clarify one NICE TA.

AOB

Nil

No other business was raised, and the meeting concluded.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 19th September 2023 and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes produced by G Mankin, Professional Secretary to NTAG, 18th July 2023