

Minutes of meeting held on 21st November 2023, 9am-11.30am

Virtual online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Position		Lead	Voting Member	July 2023	Sept 2023	Nov 2023
Chair		Dr Janet Walker <i>Medical Director, ICB</i>	Yes	✓	✓	Dr Chris Jewitt <i>Prescribing and LTC Clinical Lead (North)</i>
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	✓	Tracy Percival	✓
	Consultant	<i>Dr Simon Hill Consultant in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics and Clinical Toxicologist, NuTH</i>	Yes	✓	Apols	✓
	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>Dr Fadi Khalil ICB Clinical Lead with prescribing (Sunderland place)</i>	Yes	✓	✓	✓
	GP	<i>Dr Chris Jewitt Prescribing and LTC Clinical Lead (North)</i>	Yes	✓	✓	See above
	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	✓	Apols	Apols

Finance representative	<i>Charles Welbourn Finance Director (North Cumbria)</i>	Yes	✓	✓	✓ (until 11am)
Patient representative	<i>Jim Welch</i>	Yes	Apols	✓	Apols
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	Apols	Apols	✓
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	✓	Apols	✓
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	✓	✓	✓

The meeting was quorate.

NTAG noted that Janet Walker has now step down as current NTAG chair following her retirement. NTAG wished to express their thanks and gratitude to Janet for all her support and hard work on behalf of NTAG since she took on the role of Chair. The new chair of NTAG is Chris Jewitt.

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

Part 1 – General business

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Jim Welch, Yincent Tse

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 the following were declared:

- Matthew Grove – Teriparatide application as submitted the application so secluded himself from decision making on this item.
- Helen Seymour – AHSN/Renal Network CKD project proposal as represents AHSN on NTAG so secluded herself from decision making on this item.

3) Draft minutes September 2023 meeting

The group approved the minutes of the 19th September 2023 NTAG meeting.

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

4) Matters arising not on the agenda

Nil.

5) Action log

RDTc monthly formulary amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – June + July 2023 + other formulary amendments

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

NENC Mucolytics at a glance clinical consensus guide

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

Northern England Evaluation and Lipid Intensification guideline – updated

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

NENC Menopause guideline

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

NENC osteoporosis guideline

ML to ask Formulary Working Group to review RAG status of Denosumab and consider changing from GREEN+ to AMBER SC – *still in progress*.

Professional Secretaries of NTAG and subgroups discussed process for review/feedback of comments received following consultations and all comments received/action taken presented to relevant subgroup/NTAG meetings. Can provide feedback on an adhoc basis to individuals who have submitted comments if they request this. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC Amiodarone SCG

Sent to October 2023 Medicines subcommittee and all approved. Now published on NTAG website. A verbal update on implementation plan particularly in County Durham and Tees Valley where amiodarone was not previously shared care was given. The cardiac network have provided really helpful steer and direction agreeing in October 2023 to:

- Support primary care identifying patients who take amiodarone as they present for regular review and referring them back to secondary care if they are not under follow up (rather than a bulk referral)
- Agree that follow up in a devices clinic or specialist nurse clinic is an acceptable form of secondary care cardiology follow up.
- There are no clinical groups who should be prioritised here. The clinical data does not support any clinical risk stratification. Therefore, all patients will need to be referred and seen in order of referral unless specific concerns exist.

- Individual trusts will need to identify how to direct referrals which they receive into secondary care. Suggest primary care use existing referral infrastructure to flag the patients to secondary care.

ITEM NOW CLOSED.

Non-medicine related clinical guidelines

JW to discuss with NENC Medical Directors what the process for approval should be for non-medicine related clinical guidelines - *still in progress*.

RDTG Medicine Value Bulletins

- Metformin 1g immediate release
- Methylphenidate modified release
- Promethazine
- Acetylcysteine vs carbocysteine

ML to take the RDTG Medicines Bulletins to the NENC formulary group to consider any changes to the NENC Medicines Formulary that may be required – *to come back to NTAG as required with any necessary formulary changes*. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NTAG recommendation update - vaginal devices for female urinary stress incontinence

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

NENC Regional 'At A Glance: Supporting Greener Respiratory Care Guide' – updated

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

General guidelines for the use of hormone treatment in gender dysphoria- Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service – request to host on NTAG website

Sent to October 2023 Medicines subcommittee and addition of link to NTAG website approved rather than approving/hosting guideline itself. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

NENC Liver Network guidelines for the management of adults with asymptomatic liver blood test abnormalities – request to host on NTAG website

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

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

12-month audit data on today's agenda. ITEM NOW CLOSED.

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

September 2023: RDTG to produce a paper with some costings in to go to October 2023 Medicines Subcommittee - *on today's agenda*. ITEM NOW CLOSED

NENC regional SGLT2 top tips - update to include TA902

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

NTAG terms of reference

Chair emailed NTAG members to seek a Vice-Chair for NTAG – *to follow up before next NTAG meeting.*

6) Appeals against previous NTAG decisions

Nil received since last meeting.

Part 2 – Formulary and RAG

7) RDTC monthly formulary amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – August + September 2023

The RDTC Monthly Formulary Amendments – NICE TA/MHRA Drug Safety Updates – August + September 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 August 2023

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

30-day NICE TA917 Bimekizumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis.

- Been out for 2-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - Northumbria Trust
 - NuTH
 - STHFT
 - South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust
 - Tees Valley SICB
 - CDDFT
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status.
- No barriers to implementation were raised.

- Approved by NENC ICB Chief Pharmacist 19.10.23. as 30-day TA and within their level of delegated authority.

30-day NICE TA918 Bimekizumab for treating axial spondyloarthritis

- Been out for 2-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - STHFT
 - Tees Valley SICB
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
 - CDDFT
 - Northumbria Trust
 - NuTH
 - South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status.
- No barriers to implementation were raised.
- Approved by NENC ICB Chief Pharmacist 15.11.23. as 30-day TA and within their level of delegated authority.

30-day NICE TA925 Mirikizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis

- Been out for 2-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - CDDFT
 - Northumbria Trust
 - Tees Valley SICB
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
 - NuTH
 - South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status.
- No barriers to implementation were raised.
- Approved by NENC ICB Chief Pharmacist 15.11.23 as 30-day TA and within their level of delegated authority.

30-day NICE TA920 Tofacitinib for treating active ankylosing spondylitis

- Been out for 2-week consultation via NTAG website:
- Had responses from:
 - Northumbria Trust
 - NuTH
 - STHFT
 - Tees Valley SICB
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
 - CDDFT
 - South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status.
- No barriers to implementation were raised.
- Approved by NENC ICB Chief Pharmacist 15.11.23. as 30-day TA and within their level of delegated authority.

30-day NICE TA927 Glofitamab for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma after 2 or more systemic treatments

- NHSE commissioned NICE TA.
- Approved for NENC formulary to be updated by NENC ICB Chief Pharmacist 15.11.23.

NICE TAs published in September 2023

- Been out for 4-week consultation via NTAG website:
- Had responses from:
 - STHFT
 - County Durham ICB
 - Northumbria Trust
 - CDDFT
 - Tees Valley
 - South Tyneside & Sunderland Trust
 - North Yorkshire
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
 - NuTH
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status in the RDTC Monthly Formulary Amendments September 2023 document.

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

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

8) Formulary applications

Nil this month.

9) Other formulary amendments - September 2023 Formulary Working Group

- Been out for 4-week consultation via NTAG website.
- Had responses from:
 - NuTH
 - Northumbria Trust
 - South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust
 - South Tees Trust
 - CDDFT
 - Tees Valley
- No respond from:
 - North Tees Trust
 - North Cumbria Trust
 - QE Gateshead
- All those who responded agreed with the suggested RAG status with the exception of the formulary position for Immunosuppressants - solid organ transplants and the comments received were discussed by NTAG. Agreed by NTAG that formulary status of Immunosuppressants - solid organ transplants should be RED by default with AMBER SC exceptions listed as:
 - for transplant patients in the community who require MDS boxes as NUTH currently does not have access to EPS to facilitate the required weekly scripts.
 - For adult liver transplant patients that have not been repatriated to secondary care. Adult liver transplant patients have not been repatriated - to do so would require restructuring of the OPD clinics and funding from NHSE.

NTAG agreed with the suggested formulary status for each drug and changing formulary status of Immunosuppressants - solid organ transplants to be RED by default with AMBER SC exceptions listed.

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

10) NHSE Specialised Commissioning Circulars

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

Part 3 – Pathways and clinical guidelines

11) Nil this month.

Part 4 – Shared care

12) Nil this month.

Part 5 - Updates from Subgroups

13) NENC Formulary Working Group
Verbal update given.

14) NENC Medicines Guidelines Group

The minutes of the November 2023 meeting of the new NENC Medicines Guidelines Group were circulated post NTAG meeting for information.

Part 6 – Workplan and horizon scanning

15) RDTC monthly horizon scanning September and October 2023

NTAG received the RDTC monthly horizon scanning report for September and October 2023 for information.

16) Work plan

The group discussed the work plan and nothing new added.

Part 7 - Other

17) RDTC Medicine Value Bulletins

- **Emollient bath and shower preparations**
- **Paracetamol 250mg/ml oral suspension**

These bulletins produced by the RDTC suggest some potential savings for the NENC for the suggested recommendations within them are followed. Noted that topics are being considered for local QIPP plans.

NTAG agreed to ask the NENC formulary group to suggest any changes to the NENC Medicines Formulary that may be required to support achieving these potential savings.

ACTION: ML to take the RDTC Medicines Bulletins to the NENC formulary group to consider any changes to the NENC Medicines Formulary that may be required.

18) Sodium oxybate for narcolepsy audit report following updated NTAG recommendation in November 2022

An updated NTAG recommendation on sodium oxybate in adults who have previously not had it as a child was approved by the NENC ICB Executive in January 2023. It was added to local formularies as RED drug as tariff excluded drug. This update was in-line with RMOC national guidance published in October 2019. A condition of this recommendation was an audit on the use of sodium oxybate in adults would be carried out after twelve months to assess compliance of Trusts with the updated recommendation and gather information on patient outcomes.

Only two clinicians prescribe sodium oxybate for adults in the NENC:

- Dr Reading – STHFT
- Dr Anderson – NuTH

Since November 2022 there appears to have been no change in prescribing patterns for this drug in primary care in the NENC which is to be expected as was approved as a RED drug.

The results of the audit were presented to NTAG and demonstrate that the current NTAG recommendation is being followed so agreed no further action required by NTAG.

19) Teriparatide formulary application for use outside of NICE guidance – cost impact assessment

In March 2023 NTAG agreed to recommend approval as a RED drug and to flag the cost/service implications to the Medicines Committee and ICB Executive for consideration.

The Indication for which product is requested (Biosimilar teriparatide only): Treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and in men who:

- Are at very high risk and imminent risk of fracture as per NOGG (2021) guidelines
- For first line use for secondary prevention in this specific group
- Where romosozumab (NICE TA791) is either not indicated (all men) or contraindicated (women with significant CV disease) 21/11/2023

The NENC Medicines Subcommittee in April 2023 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 this committee if this application is to be pursued.

Based on the information available and that provided in application not possible for NTAG/RDTC to produce a cost impact assessment that meets the ask of the NENC Medicines Subcommittee concerning the use of teriparatide outside NICE guidance as per NOGG 2021 guidelines. Note that no cost impact assessment provided by NOGG itself.

NTAG noted that updated NICE guidance - Osteoporosis: risk assessment, treatment, and fragility fracture prevention (update) is currently in development with an expected publication date of 20th January 2025.

NTAG agreed that this may be very cost-effective option in a certain population but defining that population with supporting data/cost modelling of benefits is difficult.

Therefore, on this basis it agreed not to recommended approval of this formulary application but to await updated NICE guidance.

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

20) AHSN/Renal Network project proposal - Facts CKD Gateshead

Dr Sarah McCloskey - NENC Renal Network CKD Lead – in attendance

A joint work project proposal between the Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria, the NENC Renal Network, and Astra Zeneca was present to and discussed by NTAG.

NTAG asked to make a recommendation to the NENC Medicines Subcommittee before the full project is submitted to ICB/Medicines Subcommittee for approval.

NTAG noted the project hopes to address the following:

- concept of case finding via CDRC tools
- treatment optimisation – how this works in practice
- cost to roll the project across the ICB and how this could be funded.
- hope a front-loaded approach with funded pharmacist time could be used as a model across ICB.

Following points/concerns raised during NTAG discussions:

- ICB need a plan to minimise inequalities in future if this pilot project proves to be successful.
- Inequality is inevitable across a range of issues not just CKD, and PCNs chose different priorities/workstreams anyway so leading to some inequality across ICB.
- Concerns re parachuting one group of staff from one source (Pharmicus) to do work. Ideally would use PCN/practice pharmacists but they have competing work priorities which would hinder the delivery of this project. Every practice has the offer of pharmacist roles via ARRS funding for PCNs. Not aware of any practice that does not have either ICB funded or ARRS funded pharmacists. But there are practices who cannot recruit due to lack of staff available. Some felt alternative was to work with company to look at providing the resources in a different way - rather than separate pharmacist companies and have resources that are integrated and invested in PCNs and practices.

- Decision to do pilot project in Gateshead should be based on CKD risk factors not just because a pharmacy provider is linked in that particular area. There may be other providers that could do this work.
- Discussed how Gateshead has been chosen for project due to:
 - High levels of health inequality/deprivation across ICB.
 - Population representative of other areas across ICB with high levels of deprivation.
 - Availability of Pharmicus to deliver pilot project in practices they are already familiar with.
 - The percentage change in proportion of people receiving Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) in Gateshead is the second highest in when benchmarked against other CCG boundaries in NENC region.
 - The growth in Newcastle and Gateshead RRT is from a high baseline figure; where 16% of all NENC RRT is attributable to Newcastle and Gateshead.
- Empagliflozin also licensed for CKD and NICE TA expected in December 2023. Project has no bias as to which (dapagliflozin or empagliflozin) should be prescribed. Local guidelines should be followed, and this will be highlighted to project pharmacists.
- Project has exit strategy and following completion of project will use outcomes including cost/cost savings identified to seek ICB approval for roll out across NENC.
- No ICB funding required for this pilot project in Gateshead. Some concerns expressed that majority of funding for project comes from Astra Zeneca.
- Drug costs expected by project team to be no greater than those already approve for the associated NICE TA (Dapagliflozin for treating chronic kidney disease TA775, March 2022).
- Project does not take into account cost of other therapies for CKD being maximized (e.g. ACEi/ARBs). Cost modelling based on SGLT2i only.
- This pilot project designed to collect data on potential savings that could be achieved due to improved patient outcomes which could offset any increases in drug costs, and costs associated with staff resource to deliver the project.

NTAG was minded to approve the clinical/operational aspects of project because this is a pilot project to provide a blueprint/provide information to support possible wider NENC rollout in the future.

NTAG minded to support the overall aim of the project, and notes that this project will provide information to support possible wider implementation and improvements in early management of CKD across the ICB.

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

NTAG chair's action since last NTAG meeting

21) Nil this month.

AOB

Inhaler formulary applications

NTAG noted and agreed with proposal that formulary applications for individual inhalers should not be considered in isolation but rather should be part of a review of associated respiratory guidelines by the NENC respiratory network which includes all inhaler choices for that particular guideline.

NoTGNC Urinary catheter formulary

The reviewed and updated NoTGNC Urinary catheter formulary was presented to and approved by NTAG. Noted that agreed to maintain/review existing urinary catheter formulary at this stage rather to develop one single ICB formulary for these products because of variations in contracting/supply models across the ICB currently similar to those that exist with dressings, so it is not possible to harmonise the formularies at this time.

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

Sunscreens

NTAG approved Anthelios Sunscreen Lotion SPF50+ for addition to the formulary as a replacement for Sensense which has been discontinued.

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

Anastrozole

NTAG noted the November 2023 licensed extension and work ongoing to establish if local guidelines/formulary needs to be updated to reflect this. Noted that anastrozole has been included in NICE CG164 since 2017 and NICE have just updated it to remove the off-label warning in line with the MHRA licence variation.

No other business was raised, and the meeting concluded.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 16th January 2023 and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes produced by G Mankin, Professional Secretary to NTAG, 21st November 2023