
**Minutes from Advisory Group Meeting
Monday 13 October 2008 at 2pm
held in Seminar Room 7,
Chancellor's Building, Little France**

Present: Professor David Webb, Prof Clin Pharmacol, University of Edinburgh (Chair)
Professor Nick Bateman, Medical Director, SPIB and CARDS, RIE
Melinda Cuthbert, Principal Pharmacist, YCC Scotland, RIE
Sheila Noble, Senior Pharmacist, YCC Scotland, RIE
Dr Simon Maxwell, Senior Lecturer, Dept Clinical Pharmacol, University of Edinburgh
Dr David Alexander, General Practitioner, Dunfermline
Asgher Mohammed, Community Pharmacist, Glasgow representing RPSGB in Scotland
Professor Steve Hudson, Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences
Dr Ross Taylor, Senior Lecturer, Dept General Practice in Primary Care, Aberdeen
Pat Murray, Director of NHS Lothian Pharmacy Services
Sonia Lam, Director of Allied Health Professions, NES

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Prof MacDonald and Jane Harris.

2 Collaborative working

Both Alison Strath and Jane Murkin gave apologies due to unforeseen circumstances. Jane Murkin said she would like to attend the next meeting. Dates for next meeting will be organised to fit her schedule.

Action: M Cuthbert

Alison Strath to be invited to a Management Board meeting in the near future instead.

Action: S Noble

3 Minutes of previous meeting – 11 January 2007

S Lam advised that her name had been spelled incorrectly on previous minutes. Should be 'Lam' not 'Lamb'. Also the acronym 'ESCP' should be 'EACPT'. Minutes otherwise accepted as accurate.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 NES regional pharmacy trainers and DOTS package

M Cuthbert advised that the ADR package is a core module of the FY1 DOTS electronic training. NES have taken over the administration of this training and the 3 regional Pharmacy CPD tutors will be aware of the training modules. Some consideration had been given to whether these modules might be beneficial to pre-registration pharmacists but there are no plans to utilise for licensed pharmacists. NES Pharmacy offers a distant learning pack on ADRs for pharmacists. Prof Bateman asked whether a copy of this module could be obtaining for YCC Scotland for review. S Noble advised that she had tried to obtain a few months ago but it was in the process of being updated. Another attempt will be made to obtain.

Action: M Cuthbert/S Noble

M Cuthbert stated that the ADR DOTS module had been updated in Spring 2008 and the mock electronic Yellow Card had been removed since it kept causing problems for the FY1s on the DOTS platform when completing. Multiple-choice questions and an example screens for the completion of the new electronic Yellow Card are incorporated instead now. Dr Maxwell said that it was a shame that the junior doctors were not able to complete a practice electronic yellow card. Dr Maxwell to pursue with the MHRA whether a training Yellow Card can be set up.

Action: Dr Maxwell

4.2 Letter to Stuart Murray regarding GP ADR training in Scotland

Professor Webb said a letter had been sent to Stuart Murray but no reply had been received. Another letter to be written and this time if no reply within 2 weeks a reminder letter will be sent. M Cuthbert to draft.

Action: Prof Webb/ M Cuthbert

M Cuthbert mentioned that GPs in Scotland are now doing small group learning (modules adopted from Canada). Dr Alexander was aware of this but unsure who is leading on it. M Cuthbert to find out contact name and details for GP lead.

Action: M Cuthbert

Letter to be done to GP lead to see if ADRs covered in any of these modules and if yes, can YCC Scotland contribute to these sections.

Action: Dr Maxwell/ M Cuthbert

4.3 Grand round talks in Major Scottish centres

M Cuthbert reported that a letter had been sent to the Ground Round organisers (contacts provided by Association of Scottish Medicines Information Pharmacists). To date replies had been received from 8 of the 14 contacted, and ADR presentations had been booked for these sites.

P Murray enquired whether all health boards had been contacted. M Cuthbert advised that not all were included since ASMIP does not have pharmacists in all health boards. The group decided that a letter should be sent to the Chairs of Clinical Governance for all Scottish health Boards to extend this invitation (giving a list of Grand Round ADR talks already scheduled).

Action: Dr Maxwell/ M Cuthbert

P Murray to provide contact list for Chairs of Clinical governance for each health board.

Action: P Murray

4.4 Circulation of ADR package and workshops to educational institutes

S Noble reported that the ADR packages (lecture and workshops) had been sent to all institutions contacted. Also the letter to NES Pharmacy and Dental Schools has been sent but no response to date.

The group agreed that S Noble should contact all institutions disseminated to receive feedback and uptake of training package. **Action: S Noble**

S Noble said she wasn't sure if all the institutes providing AHPs' Prescribing Courses had been covered in the list she had, therefore, she would contact Jane Harris to confirm.

Action: S Noble

Sonia Lam to check if the 7 post-grad physiotherapy programmes cover ADRs in their training.

Action: S Lam

S Noble reported that Abertay University have requested that YCC Scotland do the lecture on ADRs in their Nurse Prescribers Programme. M Cuthbert said that YCC Scotland deliver the lecture to the undergrads at Robert Gordon University. Prof Bateman queried who was delivering the ADR lecture to undergrads at the University of Strathclyde. Prof Hudson to check.

Action: Prof Hudson

4.5 Vamp Vision ADR reporting function

Prof Bateman reported that the MHRA are working in collaboration with Vamp Vision, EMIS, and etc GP systems to ensure an electronic Yellow Card reporting functionality is incorporated. GPASS will be phased out by 2011.

4.6 Letter to Scottish e-health director

Prof Bateman confirmed letter has been sent (see appendix 1) but no reply to date. Prof Bateman to follow up.

Action: Prof Bateman

4.7 Progress on Large Simplified Safety Study

Prof Bateman and Prof Webb said that they had not spoken to Tom specifically about this since feedback letter had been sent, however, there had been initial publicity on ITV before moving onto the next stage. YCC Scotland Advisory Group awaits further feedback from Prof MacDonald.

4.8 EACPT Pharmacovigilance seminar

Dr Maxwell reported that Nick Moore and Tom MacDonald would speak on pharmacovigilance at the seminar in summer 2009 in Edinburgh.

4.9 ADR posters for nurses, midwives and community healthcare specialists

M Cuthbert reported that replies had been received from 8 of the 14 health boards and the posters have been disseminated in these health boards. A reminder letter to be sent to the remaining health boards that have not provided nominated individuals.

Action: M Cuthbert/Dr Maxwell

S Lam requested that a PDF copy of the poster be sent to her for dissemination to the AHPs National Group for information/ raise profile of ADRs.

Action: M Cuthbert

P Murray enquired if the posters had been disseminated to care homes as well since they come under the care commission instead of the health boards directly. M Cuthbert confirmed that they had not been. The group decided that contact should be made with the Care Commission to try to disseminate the posters to the nursing homes in Scotland as well.

Action: M Cuthbert/ S Noble

4.10 Generic ADR poster

Still pending. The group thought this poster would be beneficial to GP surgeries, community pharmacists in CHCPs as well as to junior doctors in ward areas. Poster to be actioned in early 2009.

Action: M Cuthbert

4.11 Voluntary health Scotland Talk

Prof Bateman advised awaiting discussion with Voluntary Health Scotland to progress. Dr Maxwell to take forward as new Medical Director for centre.

Action: Dr Maxwell

4.12 Health board report format feedback

M Cuthbert advised that only one member had provided feedback on the health board report format previously. She requested that once the group have seen the 2007 health board reports could they provide feedback.

Action: All

The group discussed the usefulness of the limited data now available from the MHRA to prepare these reports (since going to new system of working). It was requested that a copy of core data set previously available to YCC Scotland be provided to the group.

Action: M Cuthbert

P Murray suggested that the health board reports on Yellow Card reporting could be sent to the Directors of Public Health and Chief Executives, if the information is useful. She will review reports once available and discuss with M Cuthbert.

Action: P Murray/ M Cuthbert

5 Handover of Medical Director for YCC Scotland

Prof Bateman announced that he was stepping down as Medical Director of YCC Scotland from today and Dr Maxwell to take over. This change has been approved by the MHRA and the Scottish Government Pharmaceutical Department.

6 YCC Scotland education and training strategy

Draft strategy and objectives set by the MHRA for YCC Scotland reviewed. Suggestions for changes noted for update.

Action: M Cuthbert

A letter to the large multiples regarding YCC Scotland and ADR reporting is a component of the MHRA contract with all YCCs for this financial year. A Mohammed and P Murray questioned whether this letter could not be sent to all community pharmacies in Scotland. The group was

in agreement with this. A letter to be sent to Harry McQuillan to obtain co-operation for Community Pharmacy Scotland to aid in dissemination.

Action: M Cuthbert/S Noble/ Dr Maxwell

7 Annual Report YCC Scotland

The annual report was discussed by the group, especially the lack of detail in the information from the MHRA to compile these reports (e.g. no longer know what reactions are caused by even the top 10 medicines in Scotland). Prof Webb and Dr Maxwell to send letter to the MHRA regarding this and how it impacts upon education and training on ADRs in Scotland.

Action: Dr Maxwell/Prof Webb

8 Review of functions of Advisory Group

There was discussion around the roles of the Advisory Group. A copy of the Advisory Group Functions (appendix 2) to be re-circulated.

Action: M Cuthbert

9 AOCB

9.1 ISAC data for Community Pharmacy Patient Reporting Initiative

ISAC has agreed the application for comparison data; however, the data will not be available until after May 2009 when data collection period ends.

9.2 Collaboration with Public Health

P Murray said that there was a missed opportunity to have input on training of ADRs with national vaccine programmes (e.g. HPV) as well as to raise the profile of the centre. This will be discussed with Bill Scott or representative once a meeting is arranged.

Action: Dr Maxwell

9.3 Publicity via Connections

P Murray suggested that to raise profile of YCC Scotland in Lothian that we might consider making contact with Jennifer Stratton to get an article in Connections (i.e. background to centre, who and where we are, where we are going, etc).

Action: M Cuthbert/S Noble

9.4 Dissemination of reports to local SMTs

P Murray questioned whether the health board reports would be of value for dissemination to the local Lothian SMTs. She will review health board report for content and feedback.

Action: P Murray

10 Date and time of next meeting

M Cuthbert to circulate potential dates to group for April/May 2009 after she has obtained 6 possible dates from Jane Murkin.

Action: M Cuthbert

Summary Action List

Item No	Item for Action	Responsible Individual
1	Invite Alison Strath to a YCC Scotland Management board meeting.	S Noble
2	Obtain copy of the new version of NES Pharmacy distant learning pack on ADRs for pharmacists.	S Noble
3	Pursue with the MHRA whether a training Yellow Card can be set up.	Dr Maxwell
4	Letter to be written to Stuart Murray at NES regarding GP trainee ADR/therapeutic study day.	Prof Webb/ M Cuthbert
5	Obtain contact name and details for GP lead for in Scotland on small group learning (modules adopted from Canada).	M Cuthbert
6	Letter to GP lead for small group learning to see if ADRs covered in any of these modules and if YCC Scotland can contribute to these sections.	M Cuthbert/ Dr Maxwell
7	Send letter to the Chairs of Clinical Governance for all Scottish health Boards to extend the Grand Round invitation to all.	Dr Maxwell/ M Cuthbert
8	Provide contact list for Chairs of Clinical governance for each health board.	P Murray
9	Contact all institutions the ADR generic lecture and workshops were disseminated to receive feedback and uptake of training package.	S Noble
10	Contact J Harris to confirm if all the institutes providing AHPs' Prescribing Courses had been covered in the initial mailing list.	S Noble
11	Check if the 7 post-grad physiotherapy programmes cover ADRs in their training.	S Lam
12	Confirm who is delivering the ADR lecture to undergrads at the University of Strathclyde.	Prof Hudson
13	Follow-up on letter to e-health director in Scotland.	Prof Bateman
14	Reminder letter to Chief Executives from non-responders for a nominated individual to aid in dissemination of nurse ADR posters.	Dr Maxwell/ M Cuthbert
15	Send a PDF copy of the ADR nurse poster to S Lam for dissemination to the AHPs National Group for information/ raise profile of ADRs	M Cuthbert
16	Contact the Care Commission to disseminate the Nurse ADR posters to the nursing homes in Scotland.	S Noble/ M Cuthbert
17	Draft generic ADR poster for healthcare professionals.	M Cuthbert
18	Make contact with Voluntary Health Scotland to take forward ADR reporting by patient talks.	Dr Maxwell
19	Provide feedback on the 2007 health board reports once circulated.	All
20	A copy of core data set previously available to YCC Scotland to be provided to the group.	M Cuthbert
21	Update YCC Scotland Education and Training strategy	M Cuthbert
22	Send a letter to Harry McQuillan to obtain co-operation for Community Pharmacy Scotland to aid in dissemination of letters (as per YCC Scotland contract with MHRA) to community pharmacies.	Dr Maxwell/ S Noble/ M Cuthbert
23	Send letter to the MHRA regarding this and how it impacts upon education and training on ADRs in Scotland.	Prof Webb/ Dr Maxwell
24	Re-circulate Roles of the Advisory Group to group.	M Cuthbert
25	Discuss with Bill Scott or representative, collaborative working with Public Health and YCC Scotland input into training on ADRs with national vaccine programmes (e.g. HPV).	Dr Maxwell
26	Contact Jennifer Stratton to get an article in Connections (i.e. background to centre, who and where we are, where we are going, etc).	S Noble/ M Cuthbert
27	Review health board reports to see whether they would be of value for dissemination to the local Lothian SMTs.	P Murray
28	Get suitable dates from Jane Murkin and disseminate to group to arrange date for next meeting.	M Cuthbert

Appendix 1

Yellow Card Centre Scotland Centre for Adverse Reactions to Drugs (Scotland)

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
51 Little France Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH16 4SA

Telephone 0131 242 2919
Fax 0131 242 2925
E-mail: yccscotland@luht.scot.nhs.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref:



Paul Rhodes
EHealth Programme Director
Scottish Government Health Department
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Rhodes

We understand that you are putting together a fit-for-purpose IT system to be used within the NHS in Scotland. We obviously applaud such initiative, but would wish to remind you of the importance of pharmacovigilance in maintaining patient safety.

Many commercial systems now used in general practice allow GPs to automatically record and report adverse drug reactions and send these reports electronically to the MHRA, the organisation which has overall responsibility across the UK for collating these data and improving drug safety.

YCC Scotland is commissioned by the MHRA and the Scottish Government jointly to improve pharmacovigilance within Scotland, and in this regard we are anxious that new electronic systems being introduced into Scotland facilitate pharmacovigilance, whether in primary care or in hospital. There is a serious problem in hospitals with regard to reporting of important adverse reactions, and this in turn presents a hazard to public health.

We are therefore writing to you at this time to remind you of this important functional need, and to encourage you to include it in your development programmes. We would be happy to discuss and advise as necessary during the project and its implementation.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

DN Bateman, Medical Director, YCC Scotland
Professor in Clinical Toxicology,
Consultant Physician & Director,
NPIS Edinburgh

DJ Webb, Chairman, YCC Scotland Advisory Board
Christison Professor of Therapeutics &
Clinical Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacology Unit,
University of Edinburgh

cc Mr H Burns, Chief Medical Officer
Professor W Scott, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mr P Martin, Chief Nursing Officer

Functions of the Advisory Group

- 1 Advise centre on issues relating to medicines safety in Scotland
- 2 Advise centre on practical initiatives in which the quality and quantity of spontaneous adverse drug reactions (ADRs) can be improved in Scotland, including raising the profile of ADRs reporting through initiatives in Undergraduate and postgraduate education in Scotland.
- 3 Promote research in pharmacoepidemiology.
- 4 Increase the profile of pharmacovigilance in Scotland
- 5 Provide peer review on any reports generated by CARDS.
- 6 Foster multidisciplinary approaches to ADRs within Scotland.
- 7 Specifically foster collaboration between pharmacy and clinical pharmacology.
- 8 Share good practice from other areas for avoidance of ADRs.
- 9 Work with the SMC in gathering information on the safety and efficacy of new medications; and provide advice where appropriate.
- 10 Create national ownership of the YCC Scotland scheme through the multiprofessional nature of the advisory group and disciplines.