

**Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Scotland Advisory Group Meeting 18th
September 2018 Minutes**

Present:	
Angela Timoney	Director of Pharmacy, NHS Lothian (Chairperson)
Tracy Duff	Lead Pharmacist YCC Scotland and Medicines Information, RIE
Alison Paterson	Senior Pharmacist YCC Scotland and Medicines Information, RIE
Alexander Kiker	Information Officer YCC Scotland and Medicines Information, RIE
Karen Harkness *	Association of Scottish Medicines Information Practitioners
Simon Maxwell †	Medical Director YCC Scotland
Tom MacDonald †	Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacoepidemiology, Dundee
Leon Zlotos †	NHS Education for Scotland – <i>deputising for Anne Watson</i>
Observer:	
Eleanor England (EE)	Guest Pre-registration Pharmacist, RIE

* - attendance via video conference † - attendance via teleconference

1	Apologies	Innes Connor & Karima Et Taouil (Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre); Anne Watson, John McKay, Helen McFarlane & Jane Harris (NHS Education for Scotland); James McLay (NHS Grampian); Christopher Nicolson (NHS Shetland & NHS Orkney); David Standley (Patient Representative); James Dear (Deputy Medical Director YCC Scotland)
2	Committee Business	<p>2.1: Functions of Advisory Group (2016) – The group was presented with the Remit of the YCC Scotland Advisory Group. All members present were content with the remit as described.</p> <p>Members were reminded to write a brief statement to include on their YCC Scotland website profile. A Kiker will provide a template for statements to all members. Drafts for all outstanding statements are to be sent to A Kiker by 31st October 2018.</p> <p>2.2: Location of Subsequent Meetings – The Advisory Group was made aware of difficulties that NHS Lothian members had in attending the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, with car parking restrictions preventing D Standley from being able to attend. It was decided that an alternative location for the meeting should be found, with Waverley Gate suggested for this due to its central location and open access.</p>
3	Minutes of Previous meeting	<p>3.1: Spelling Corrections – Names of individuals were amended to the correct spelling, as follows: Sharon Pflieger; Mick Foy; James McLay; Karima Et Taouil; Christopher Nicolson.</p> <p>3.2: Points Awaiting Clarification (Items 5.1 & 6.1) – Two points from the minutes were noted as awaiting clarification prior to circulation of the minutes.</p> <p>Following the amendments above, the minutes of the meeting on 23rd April 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record, and will be circulated.</p>
4	Matters Arising	<p>4.1: VISION Reporting Statistics – The Advisory Group was presented with the current statistics for Yellow Card reporting in Scotland via Vision. It was suggested that a representative from YCC Scotland should attend the Scottish Prescribing Association Group conference to speak on Vision reporting and provide details on how to report. A Paterson is to liaise with Simon Hurding, General Practitioner advisor for Medicines Management, to organise attendance.</p> <p>4.2: GP Slides – No update was available as of 18th September 2018.</p>

		<p>4.3: EMIS – The Advisory Group noted that the integration of Yellow Card reporting through EMIS Health software, as discussed in the YCC/MHRA AGM, would be a greatly beneficial development for Scotland in particular, as EMIS Health accounts for 56% of all primary care computer systems across Scotland. It is expected that YC reporting functionality should be available across all versions of EMIS Health software. The MHRA are looking to begin a pilot in the next few months. It was agreed that it would be good to pilot in Scotland. Greater Glasgow & Clyde was suggested as a possible health board to pilot this, being predominantly EMIS. T Duff is to contact Audrey Thompson, Lead Pharmacist in Primary Care for Greater Glasgow & Clyde, to discuss. It was suggested that Stephen McBurney, Primary Care Pharmacy Co-ordinator, would be the best point of contact to investigate which other health board areas in Scotland use the EMIS Health software.</p>
5	YCCS 2017/18 Data	<p>5.1: Annual Statistics for Report – T Duff presented the annual report data for 2017/18, with particular attention paid to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in Yellow Card reports from General Practitioners following the implementation of electronic Yellow Card submissions through Vision • There has been a significant increase in the number of Yellow Card reports involving fatal outcomes (further details have been requested from the MHRA) • There has been a decrease in Yellow Card reports from secondary care, especially from nursing staff. This reflects a national trend across the United Kingdom of decreased reports from nursing staff. There has also been a decrease in reporting by hospital doctors and pharmacists • Levothyroxine has become one of the top 10 suspect medicines for reports. This reflects a national trend across the United Kingdom of increased reports for levothyroxine, likely due to the Drug Safety Update on this following the issues with the generic previously • Parenteral iron is also in the top 10 reported medicines which may reflect vigilance in pregnancy • We are starting to see reports via Vision and RIDR <p>The Advisory Group was advised that the annual report for 2017/18 is nearing completion, following delays caused by a discrepancy between the different data sets received by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA has been contacted for advice regarding this discrepancy, and to request additional details for the reports involving fatal outcomes.</p> <p>The Advisory Group was advised that the MHRA will conduct an investigation into the national decrease in reports submitted by nursing staff, and will provide further information following their investigation.</p> <p>5.2: MHRA Objectives – The Advisory Group was presented with the objectives for YCC Scotland, as set by the MHRA. These were provided for general information and awareness.</p>
6	MHRA	<p>6.1: Update from YCC/MHRA Annual General Meeting 10th September 2018 – S Maxwell provided an update from the morning of the YCC/MHRA Annual General Meeting (AGM). The key topics of discussion in the morning were updates on electronic systems for Yellow Card reporting, Web-RADR and the work being done to reduce harm from sodium valproate use during pregnancy.</p>

T Duff presented on behalf of YCCS in the afternoon. An update was provided on the new reporter group options for the Yellow Card website electronic submission form, and the development of an electronic Yellow Card reporting system integrated into the EMIS Health primary care software.

6.2: YCC/MHRA Reporter Groups (Current) and Stats – The Advisory Group was presented with the list and statistics of the current reporter group options for the Yellow Card website electronic submission form. This was provided for background information to the workshop. These are currently in a single tier list and include entries for non HCP, such as lawyers.

6.3: Minutes from Reporter Group Workshop 8th August 2018 – These were circulated for information. The Advisory Group was presented with the current draft of the revised list of reporter group options for the Yellow Card website electronic submission form for review and discussion. The Advisory Group was invited to provide comments on the list which can be fed back to the MHRA.

T Duff is to send the following suggestions to the MHRA on behalf of the Advisory Group:

- 'Optician' should be 'Dispensing Optician'
- Under 'Pharmacy' heading, add 'Student' option
- Under 'Pharmacy' heading, add separate 'Pharmacy Technician' options for different sectors

6.4: Proposed Pregnancy Report Form – This was circulated for information and comment. The Advisory Group was advised that the MHRA is planning to add a series of additional questions for pregnant patients when completing an electronic Yellow Card on the Yellow Card Scheme website or app. The MHRA are in discussion with relevant patient charities in relation to the sensitive nature of the questions, and with UK Teratology Information Service who currently follow up reported exposures during pregnancy.

This work is in response to the hormonal pregnancy review aiming to increase awareness of reporting during pregnancy, to proactively capture information on in utero exposure. In particular low reporting amongst midwives and nurses was noted. It was agreed that an action of YCCS should be to improve awareness and reporting from midwives and nurses in relation to drugs in pregnancy.

The Advisory Group further discussed the issue of sodium valproate use during pregnancy, noting that local health boards are under considerable pressure from the MHRA to increase awareness of the risks and reduce harm to patients. T MacDonald advised the Advisory Group that, because sodium valproate is very effective, many patients taking it do not wish to stop treatment, and some even choose to accept the risks when trying to become pregnant. The Advisory Group acknowledged these were difficult discussions to have with patients, without any obvious alternative safer options to offer.

T Duff is to send the following feedback to the MHRA on behalf of the Advisory Group:

- The YCC Scotland Advisory Group recognises it is a difficult decision for patients and healthcare professionals to make and feels there is a need for greater involvement. Just providing information is not good enough. The safety/benefit scales must be evaluated on an individual basis and the final action taken is down to the patient's personal decision.

7	Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC) update	No representative from the Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre was present to provide an update.
8	Social Media	<p>8.1: Twitter Update – The Advisory Group was presented with current statistics for social media, including the reach of Twitter and visits to the website. It was noted that more open collaboration with the other regional Yellow Card Centres’ social media campaigns would benefit all regions. The Advisory Group decided that more engagement from the MHRA would increase the viability of the regional Yellow Card Centre Twitter accounts.</p> <p>The Advisory Group noted the high number of unsuccessful searches using the YCC Scotland website’s search functionality. A Kiker is to investigate this for more information and raise as an agenda item for the next YCC Scotland Management Board meeting.</p> <p>8.2: YCC Scotland Mission Statement – The Advisory Group was presented with the Mission Statement for YCC Scotland. This was provided to elucidate the purpose and goals of YCC Scotland’s social media campaign.</p> <p>8.3: Facebook Page for YCC Scotland – It was decided that it is not currently appropriate to pursue the possibility of Facebook page for YCC Scotland. This may be revisited at a later date.</p>
9	Resources and promotion	<p>9.1: Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) Learning Modules Update – The Advisory Group was informed of the current progress of the ADR online learning module update. L Zlotos advised that the new updated modules will be developed by YCC Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), using the Storyline software, allowing YCC Scotland and NES to retain complete control of the modules after they are published. It is hoped that a laptop will be sourced for A Kiker within the next two weeks to begin working with L Zlotos and Martin Burnside, freelance illustrator for NES.</p> <p>9.2: YCCS Newsletter Update – The Advisory Group was advised that YCC Scotland has been in discussions with the Lothian Prescribing Bulletin committee, with plans for an article in the next few months highlighting the new integration of Yellow Card reporting through Vision. This will be highlighted to other boards for consideration.</p>
10	Student Engagement	10.1: Update on Activity 2018/19 – The Advisory Group was advised that the University of Strathclyde no longer requires YCC Scotland to provide education on the Yellow Card Scheme. The reason cited for this was a move to more online learning and less face-to-face teaching. It was noted that YCC Scotland should look into updating our teaching strategy as higher education centres move to online learning models.
11	Patient Engagement	<p>11.1: Patient-centred Objectives – The objectives are set by the MHRA and include three targets to increase patient awareness and encourage YC reporting. A brief presentation highlighted the actions of YCCS over the last 2 year in relation to these targets. Historically this involved making contact with individual patient organisations (target is to make contact with 5 groups/ year). However, this targets small numbers. Recent efforts have aimed to reach wider populations, such as social media. It was acknowledged that YCCS had been less active in attending conferences with the YCCS stand due to staffing issues, the limitation being this is a 2 person job.</p> <p>11.2: Patient Strategy 2018/19 – The Advisory Group discussed YCC Scotland’s strategy for involving patients for 2018/19. It was noted that communications with patient organisations</p>

		<p>have fallen by the wayside. The Advisory Group was advised that an action point from the most recent YCC Scotland Management Board meeting involved drawing up a list of patient groups to resume communications in 2019.</p> <p>The Advisory Group provided the following suggestions for how to best increase patient awareness of the Yellow Card Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Groups as a way to reach patient organisations • Involve community pharmacists in patient engagement • Include involvement in YCC Scotland and promotion of the Yellow Card Scheme as part of pre-registration pharmacist training or continuing professional development. It was suggested that pre-registration pharmacists on their Lothian Medicines Information Service rotation could help with the YCCS stand. <p>T Duff is to raise these suggestions with Gail Craig, Principal Lead for Pre-registration Pharmacist Training at NES, and Melinda Cuthbert, Associate Director of Pharmacy for NHS Lothian.</p>
12	Healthcare Professional Engagement	<p>12.1: Update of Activity 2018/19 – Deferred to the next YCC Scotland Advisory Group meeting.</p> <p>12.2: Allied Health Professional (AHP) Leads Meeting & Outcomes – The Advisory Group was advised that the AHP Leads meeting provided a number of activities for YCC Scotland, including teaching involvement for three new non-medical prescriber courses and a request to provide a presentation to the prison services. The AHP Leads meeting also offered to serve as a source of contacts and a forum for YCC Scotland to disseminate information and communications to non-medical prescribers.</p> <p>12.3: MiDatabank ADR Reporting – The Advisory Group was advised that Yellow Card reports via MiDatabank are low across Scotland, and have significantly declined compared to last year. T Duff/H Karkness will raise this at the next Association of Scottish Medicines Information Practitioners meeting on 26th September.</p> <p>12.4: Moodle Presentation for Robert Gordon University (RHGU) Independent Prescribers – The Advisory Group was advised that the Moodle presentation for the RGU Independent Prescribers course has been completed in PowerPoint, but had not received any response from RGU to discuss its implementation. It was decided that now would be an ideal time to try again, as it is the beginning of the new teaching year for universities across Scotland. A Paterson is to follow-up with Trudi McIntosh, senior lecturer, and Ina Donat, lecturer, at RGU.</p> <p>The Advisory Group noted that YCC Scotland should consider disseminating the presentation across other Scottish universities. It was decided that other platforms should be investigated for hosting the 10-minute presentation for wider dissemination. T Duff is to liaise with L Zlotos to further discuss the possibilities of implementing the presentation through Turas Learn or another alternative format. L Zlotos advised that this could be open access (unrestricted), restricted to those registered with Turas or further restricted to pharmacy users.</p>
13	AOB	No other business to report
14	Next meeting	TBC following a doodle poll. Venue will be Waverley Gate.