
**Minutes from Advisory Group Meeting
Monday 24th May 2010
at 2pm in Seminar Room 3 (FU224)
Chancellors Building, Little France**

Present: Professor David Webb, Prof Clin Pharmacol, University of Edinburgh (Chair)
Dr David Alexander, General Practitioner, Dunfermline
Professor Nick Bateman, ex-Medical Director, YCC Scotland and Medical Director SPIB, RIE
Jane Harris, Teaching Dean, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Dundee
Professor Peter Helms, Prof Child Health, University of Aberdeen
Professor Simon Maxwell, Medical Director YCC Scotland, Senior Lecturer in Dept Clinical Pharmacol, University of Edinburgh
Sinéad McGhee, Information Officer, YCC Scotland, RIE (minutes)
Sheila Noble, Senior Pharmacist, YCC Scotland, RIE

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Melinda Cuthbert, Prof Steve Hudson, Sonya Lam, Prof Tom MacDonald and Janice Watt.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Spelling correction to name on page 3. With these changes the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Agreement of revised Advisory Group Remit and Mission Statement for YCC Scotland (Enclosures 1 & 2)

The Advisory Group agreed that the current layout of the Mission Statement should be retained. The Advisory Group agreed to replace the phrase “ensuring that the adverse effects of medicines are minimised” with “seek to minimise”. Prof Webb suggested that the Mission Statement should be revised to include reference to education. Prof Maxwell will update the Mission Statement and circulate via email in advance of the next YCC Scotland Advisory Group Meeting.

Action: Prof Maxwell

Jane Harris suggested that point three of the Advisory Group Remit be widened to cater to health care professionals who might not view CPD courses as postgraduate education. The Advisory Group agreed to include the term “clinician”. Professor Helms suggested that research bodies or groups, such as the Scottish Health Informatics Programme should be included in the list of organisations in point six of the Remit. Prof Maxwell suggested that the term “research organisations” be added. The Group also suggested that ISD be added to the list of organisations. Prof Maxwell will update the Remit of the Advisory Board and circulate via email prior to the next YCC Scotland Advisory Group Meeting.

Action: Prof Maxwell

3.2 Pharmacovigilance Plan (Enclosure 3)

Prof Webb reminded the Group that while Patient Safety is devolved to Scotland, Pharmacovigilance is not. Prof Webb suggested that as Pharmacovigilance is not a well known term the impact of the plan might be greater if a different title was used. Prof Bateman also suggested that the title Pharmacovigilance is specific to the MHRA and should be avoided in order to encourage engagement with lay members of Health Boards. Sheila Noble suggested that “Drug Safety Plan” might be an appropriate title. Prof Helms suggested that as it could be argued that other organisations have responsibility for prevention of adverse drug reactions the plan could be titled “Promoting Safer Medicines in Scotland”.

The Group suggested that the audience for the plan should be considered carefully. Prof Bateman envisioned that all organisations of sufficient size should have one of the plans while Prof Maxwell suggested that the plan should be applicable beyond Board and Drug and Therapeutics Committee levels. Dr Alexander cautioned that the plan is aimed at a strategic level and would be unlikely to engage with GP surgeries. Prof Helms suggested that ISD should be alerted to the plan. Prof Webb suggested that a hierarchical structure within the plan could help to make it clearer where responsibilities lie, e.g at Health Board level, then Drug and Therapeutics Committee level, and so on.

Prof Webb also suggested that the background information paragraphs be removed from the plan itself and instead included as a separate document in the appendix. Prof Helms suggested that health costs be mentioned explicitly in the background information. Prof Webb listed improved drug safety and reduced medication errors, together with attendant NHS health and cost savings, as factors that could assist the plan in being accepted.

Prof Bateman suggested that a toolkit should be made available with the plan to support implementation. The Group suggested that this could include a talk on adverse drug reactions, feedback on adverse drug reactions at a Health Board level and a template for Health Boards to put together a plan.

Jane Harris suggested that the Scottish Patient Safety Programme might be a possible partner organisation for the plan. Prof Maxwell reminded the Group that the plan offers guidelines for best practice at a strategic level but does not state that only YCC Scotland will do these things. Prof Maxwell has liaised with the local Scottish Patient Safety Programme representative in NHS Lothian but suggested that producing the plan in partnership with another organisation could lead to administrative delays. For this reason the Advisory Group suggested that while MHRA support would be welcome the plan should be pursued under the remit of the Centre for Adverse Reactions to Drugs (Scotland) and not under the remit of YCC Scotland.

Prof Webb suggested that if the plan is directed at those with operational control at Health Board level and Drug and Therapeutics Committee level support from Bill Scott, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer would be essential. Endorsement from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer should also be sought. Prof Bateman suggested that the YCC Scotland Medical Director arrange a meeting with the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer as soon as possible.

Prof Maxwell will arrange a meeting to ask the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for feedback to improve the plan. The title, structure, hierarchy and distribution of the plan will be revisited. Prof Maxwell will circulate the redrafted plan in advance of the next YCC Advisory Group Meeting.

Action: Prof Maxwell

3.3 Promotion of patient reporting of ADRs at The Gathering

Although the two talks by Prof Helms and Prof Maxwell worked well together, organisation and footfall at the Gathering was disappointing. It was agreed not to pursue the Gathering next year. However, both presenters felt that the format would work again at a different event. It was agreed that involvement in a plenary rather than a parallel session may be a better format in the future.

3.4 Update on paediatric dataset availability from the MHRA

Sinéad McGhee reported that paediatric reports were made available to YCC Scotland at Health Board level and included in the Health Board Reports. At Health Board level the MHRA would supply summary statistics only (number of reports).

Prof Helms reported on a project initiated by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health which could offer useful insight into Scottish paediatric reporting. The project was initiated by Prof Neil McIntosh of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and details are available through Prof Helms. All paediatricians are sent an email which prompts reporting of adverse drug reactions. Since October 2009 there have been 50 reports generated.

Prof Helms suggested that it would be useful to obtain further details of paediatric reports at a Scottish level. MHRA classification of paediatric reports includes all reports in individuals under 18 years old. Prof Helms suggested a stratification of reports based on ICH paediatric age ranges would be useful. In addition the number of serious reactions and Black Triangle drugs reported would also be useful. The Advisory Group also suggested that the top ten drugs cited in paediatric reports would be of interest. The YCC team are to investigate whether these details can be obtained from the MHRA.

Action: YCC Team

3.5 Training electronic Yellow Card

Prof Maxwell presented on the electronic Yellow Card at the YCC Annual General Meeting. The project allows users to fill in the Yellow Card online and receive feedback on their efforts. It is hoped that demonstrating the system to professionals early in their career will prompt more reports. The e-learning programme was well received by the MHRA, Prof Maxwell envisions that the YCC team will help to draft examples and feedback. Permission is awaited from MHRA. Prof Maxwell will update on any progress.

4 YCC Annual General Meeting at MHRA

Prof Maxwell updated on the YCC Annual General Meeting. Data from the flu pandemic reporting will be made available to all YCC Centres. A redirection problem with the Royal Mail is being resolved. Overall trends in reporting were discussed; report numbers remain similar to previous years with a slight drop in GP reporting noted and a slight increase in patient reporting. The MHRA sees the role of the Yellow Card Centres as increasingly focussed on education and outreach, promoting increased reporting levels through education.

5 Draft Health Board Reports 2008-09 (Enclosure 4)

Prof Webb suggested reorganising the Health Boards in the graphs to ensure anonymity. The Group discussed whether it would be more helpful to include only the individual Health Board reporting levels compared to the Scottish average, best performing and worst performing Health Boards for each section. The Group queried whether figures 1 and 2 were necessary for inclusion. Prof Maxwell suggested that figure 3, which displays reports per 100,000 population, was perhaps a more useful comparison. The Group also suggested that the percentage of reports be displayed in a separate column to the report numbers to make Table 3 easier to read. Prof Webb suggested that in Table 4 the number of reports be added as a separate column to the table. Where a medicine has less than five reports this should not be included. The YCC Team are to discuss the suggestions at the next YCC Scotland Management Board Meeting.

Action: YCC Team

It was noted that the Health Board report for NHS Lothian listed Fluoroscein as the third most commonly reported drug. The YCC Team to investigate these reports further and discuss at the next YCC Scotland Management Board meeting.

Action: YCC Team

6 RPSGB representative

Asgher Mohammed has retired from the YCC Scotland Advisory Group. The YCC Team wrote to Mr Lyndon Braddick, Secretary, Scottish Pharmacy Board, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in February asking for a replacement to be nominated. Prof Webb suggested that as no response has been received as yet Sandra Melville be copied into the correspondence. Prof Webb also suggested that a letter thanking Asgher Mohammed for his contribution be drafted on his behalf by the YCC Team.

Action: YCC Team

7 AOCB

7.1 Retirement of Dr David Alexander

Dr David Alexander announced his resignation from the YCC Scotland Advisory Group. Dr Alexander suggested that a new representative should be sought from Carrie Young of the BMA's Scottish General Practice Committee.

7.2 David Juurlink visit

David Juurlink will be presenting at Queen's Medical Research Institute on 25th June on data linkage in Canada. Prof Bateman will circulate details to the group via email.

Action: Prof Bateman

7.3 Public Health Service Pharmacy Campaign in Scotland

Yellow Card Centre Scotland has arranged to take part in the Scottish Public Health Service Pharmacy Campaign in 2011. The Yellow Card Centre Scotland slot will run 3rd January–13th February 2011.

7.4 Optometrist representation on the Advisory Group

Sonya Lam has been approached regarding optometrist representation on the Advisory Group. As optometrists are not Allied Health Professionals they do not currently have a direct representative. Prof Bateman suggested that a representative could be invited to sit in at one meeting and present to the Advisory Group rather than becoming a formal member.

7.5 Scottish Health Informatics Programme retreat

Prof Helms updated on his recent attendance at the Scottish Health informatics Programme Retreat in Stirling. The Annual retreat looks at legal and ethical implications of the routine use of data and has a Pharmacovigilance element. Prof Helms suggested that YCC Scotland would be able to present at this meeting if the organiser, Prof Andrew Morris, was approached. Prof Maxwell will approach Prof Morris regarding the next retreat.

Action: Prof Maxwell

8 Date and time of next meeting

Sinéad McGhee to Doodle for date of next meeting.

Action: Sinéad McGhee