
**Minutes from Advisory Group Meeting
Thursday 31st March 2011
at 2pm in Board Room 1
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Little France**

Present: Professor David Webb, Prof Clin Pharmacol, University of Edinburgh (Chair)
Dr Gary Hamilton, GP, BMA Scottish General Practice Committee
Melinda Cuthbert, Lead Pharmacist Medicines Information/YCC Scotland RIE
Sonya Lam, Director of Allied Health Professionals, NHS Education for
Scotland
Ewan Black, Community Pharmacist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Professor Tom MacDonald, Professor Clin Pharmacol and
Pharmacoepidemiology, University of Dundee (teleconference)
Professor Nick Bateman, ex-Medical Director, YCC Scotland and Medical
Director SPIB, RIE
Professor Peter Helms, Prof Child Health, University of Aberdeen
(teleconference)
Professor Simon Maxwell, Medical Director YCC Scotland, University of
Edinburgh
Sheila Noble, Senior Pharmacist, Medicines Information/YCC Scotland, RIE
(minutes)
Frank Munro, Professional Executive Advisor, Optometry Scotland

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jane Harris, Dr James Dear, Janice Watt and
Professor Pat Murray

2 Dr Gary Hamilton and Mr Ewan Black were both welcomed to the Group as new members

3 Optometry Scotland presentation

Mr Frank Munro, a professional optometrist and Professional Executive Advisor to Optometry
Scotland, gave a presentation identifying the role of optometrists and highlighting how they can
become more involved in monitoring for Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs).

During the eye examination in General Ophthalmic Services, optometrists take a full medical
history based upon the patient's knowledge, and the prescription "pink slip", and seek further
information from the patient's GP if required. It was agreed that access to the Electronic Care
Summary (ECS) would be very useful at weekends when the GP surgery is closed. If an ADR is
suspected when examining the eyes, this information is usually passed on to the GP and a Yellow
Card is not routinely submitted by the optometrist. It is, however, planned that optometrists will
be linked to the SCI Gateway over the next few years and this could be a conduit for ADR
identification and reporting. Digital images of the retinas and intraocular pressures for all those
over 40 years old will be recorded at each visit and included on the network. Prof MacDonald
identified that this electronic link could be used for the systematic recording of eye exams and,
with patient consent, this could be linked in with e.g. clinical trials to identify ophthalmic adverse
effects - Prof MacDonald and Frank Munro to pursue this further after the meeting - Melinda
Cuthbert will provide Frank Munro's email address to Prof MacDonald. Prof Helms advised that
the Scottish Health Informatics Programme (SHIP) is looking into the ethics of linking data via CHI
numbers and it may therefore be possible to use ISD links for retinal screening of diabetics.

Action: Melinda Cuthbert, Frank Munro, Prof MacDonald

Frank Munro explained that 78% of optometry patients can be managed in the community with fewer referrals to the hospital service, thus reducing the strain on secondary care. Currently there is NES funding for 200 qualified optometrists to train as independent prescribers. There are already 40 who have successfully completed the course and it is anticipated that there could be 400 qualified over the next few years. Once this has been ratified by the Scottish Government, independently prescribing optometrists will be able to prescribe from the BNF within their competency e.g. from BNF chapter 11 plus some systemic analgesics and antibiotics and some topical skin preparations. The drugs which most often cause ophthalmic problems include steroids, hypotensive agents and HRT, which has been associated with keratitis. The independent prescribing course for optometrists is run by Glasgow Caledonian University. Currently Yellow Card reporting is only covered briefly and Frank Munro is planning to contact the Department Head at the University to pursue incorporating either YCC teaching resources or direct input from the YCC Scotland team into the course.

Action: Frank Munro

It was also agreed that YCC Scotland would be able to provide input on ADRs and their reporting to NES meetings for optometrists, and Sonya Lam recommended that Donald Cameron and Janet Cooley would be the best people to contact and advised that she could liaise with them and/or provide contact details for Optometry Scotland.

Action Sonya Lam

Frank Munro explained that a handout is being developed linking ophthalmic side effects with possible causative drugs and again YCC Scotland can provide input or advice on this as appropriate.

One problem that optometrists have is obtaining recent copies of the BNF. Melinda Cuthbert recommended using the electronic version of the BNF and the electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) which are both available online, and Prof Maxwell advised that Duncan Enright is the contact for obtaining paper copies and will forward his details.

Action: Melinda Cuthbert, Simon Maxwell

Prof Webb thanked Frank Munro for a very informative and stimulating presentation.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

5 Matters arising**5.1 Promoting Safer Medicines in Scotland**

It was agreed that this was a good paper and suggested additions/alterations were:

- Include the responsibilities of the Yellow Card centre
- Expand primary care reference to stipulate pharmacists, GPs, nurses, optometrists, physiotherapists and other AHPs.
- Removal of the word "Pharmacovigilance" before "Report" in the second paragraph on the third page

It was agreed that this should now go for consultation with e.g. Prof Bill Scott, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, The Chief Medical Officer, The Chief Nursing Officer, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (formerly QIS), Scottish Patient Safety Programme and Marion Bennie at

the ISD. Prof Webb recommended that Prof Maxwell should write to the individuals to arrange to meet them and discuss the paper rather than simply send it to them.

Ewan Black explained that if this was to be adopted by all community pharmacies it would need to be accepted in England in order to enrol the multiples and it was felt that once it was endorsed by Prof Scott this could then be progressed with Keith Ridge to bring the multiples on board.

Action: Prof Maxwell

6 Promotion of patient reporting of ADRs via Public Health Service Pharmacy Herbal Medicines Campaign and ISAC application

Melinda Cuthbert reported that the second Scottish campaign had run successfully from 3rd January until 7th February 2011. The Community Pharmacy magazine have asked for information on outcomes. However, as we will not have the data available for some time, they plan to run a generic article in the interim. We will now submit an application to ISAC to obtain the relevant data for analysis.

Action: YCC Team

7 Annual Report 2009/10

Sonya Lam identified that it would be useful if the "Other Healthcare Professionals" category could be sub-divided to identify e.g. physiotherapists, optometrists etc. This is not currently possible as electronic Yellow Cards and the Sentinel system do not accommodate this. We have had similar requests from the nursing profession and it was agreed that this would be raised at the YCC AGM in May.

Action: YCC Team

Prof Bateman identified that dentist reporting is still very low despite previous attempts to engage educational establishments for dentists. Sonya Lam recommended contacting David Felix at NES and agreed to identify other links at NES so that we can target all the Healthcare Professionals and arrange to meet with their NES representatives.

Action: Sonya Lam, Sheila Noble

Sheila Noble has identified a numerical error in the draft Annual Report. Once this has been corrected it can be forwarded to the MHRA.

Action: Sheila Noble

8 Draft Health Board Reports 2009/10

Sonya Lam identified a typographical error. Once this has been corrected it was agreed that these could be sent to the MHRA for approval prior to distribution to the individual Health Boards.

Prof Bateman observed that these were not current and suggested that future reports are sent to the MHRA in advance of the MHRA AGM if this is possible.

Action: Sheila Noble

9 Suggestions for improvement to YCC Scotland Website (prior to redesign)

The website redesign has been delayed. however, we are hoping to begin working on the new platform in the late spring of this year. All members of the group are asked to access the current

website via www.yccscotland.scot.nhs.uk and feed back any comments to Sheila Noble. New members to the group are asked to provide a brief autobiography and head-and-shoulders portrait photograph if possible, and current members are asked to check if their biography requires to be updated.

Action: All

10 Scottish Health Informatics Programme Retreat

This is scheduled for 13th May 2011 at Dunblane. Prof Maxwell is presenting on the function of YCC Scotland and Prof Helms will be discussing Parent/Child Datasets.

11 Pharmacovigilance Research (CHIMES)

Prof Helms reported that the midway research data identifying potential ADR signals via prescribing information datasets, neonatal and maternity datasets etc were presented in Edinburgh during March 2011 and these have been summarised on an A4 sheet which he will distribute to all members of the Advisory Group.

Action: Prof Helms

12 AOCB

12.1 Professor Steve Hudson

The sudden and untimely death of Professor Steve Hudson was marked and he will be sadly missed. Academic pharmacy input for the Advisory Group is to be sought.

Action: YCC Team

12.2 Dr James Dear

Dr James Dear has been appointed as the Deputy Medical Director of the YCC Scotland Management Board and will be attending future Advisory Group meetings.

12.3 Single Prescription Administration Record for Scotland

Prof Maxwell reported on work being done to develop this standard document for secondary care across Scotland. The need to include information on ADRs has been highlighted. Professor Webb noted that the English initiative to develop such a document has been mothballed so it is all the more important that Scotland makes progress with this. Although it is a paper document at present, it should be able to extrapolate to electronic prescribing in the future.

12.4 NHS Scotland Event 2011

Sonya Lam advised that this event is scheduled for the 23-24th August 2011 in the SECC in Glasgow and they are now looking for poster abstracts on the theme "Quality in Action". If we do not wish to submit a poster it may be possible to man a stand or give a presentation. Information to be passed to the Group.

Action: Sonya Lam, YCC Team

13 Dates and Times of future meetings

It was agreed that we should plan, via Doodle Poll, for the next three meetings at 6-monthly intervals to start at 2.30pm and in a room with internet and teleconferencing facilities.

Action: Sheila Noble