

Enclosure No:	3/AWMSG/1217
Agenda item No:	7 – AWMSG Five Year Strategy 2018–2023: <i>Supporting prudent prescribing to obtain the best outcomes from medicines for patients in Wales</i>
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1.0 ACTION FOR AWMSG

AWMSG members are requested to consider and comment on the AWMSG Five Year Strategy 2018–2023.

2.0 PURPOSE

AWMSG is committed to ensuring that patients in Wales have access to clinically effective and cost-effective medicines that will improve their health outcomes. Over the next five years AWMSG will aim to ensure that prescribing in Wales is consistent with the optimal prescribing practices in the rest of the UK. The strategy for the next five years (1 April 2018–31 March 2023) builds on the success of the previous strategy (2013–2018).

3.0 BACKGROUND

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) is committed to supporting Welsh Government's Prudent Healthcare initiative, "*Healthcare that fits the needs and circumstances of patients and avoids wasteful care*". This will only be achieved by working in partnership with many organisations to deliver a medicines strategy in Wales that promotes safe and effective prescribing practices. The recommendations in this strategy are aligned to these principles to ensure healthcare fits the needs and circumstances of patients.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) was established in 2002 to provide advice on new and existing medicines, medicines management and prescribing to the Welsh Government in an effective, efficient, timely and transparent manner.
- AWMSG brings together an expert panel of health professionals, scientists, health economists, industry representatives, patient advocates and lay representatives to reach a consensus on the use of new medicines and on policies that promote the best use of medicines, in order to achieve the best health outcomes for patients in Wales.
- There is broad geographical representation within AWMSG from across the whole of NHS Wales, supporting the aim of achieving equity of access to clinically effective and cost-effective medicines for patients in Wales. Two advisory subgroups report to AWMSG and provide expert advice: the New Medicines Group (NMG) and the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG).
- AWMSG and its subgroups are supported by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) which co-ordinates AWMSG's work programme and prioritises objectives with Welsh Government.
- AWMSG is committed to supporting Welsh Government's Prudent Healthcare initiative, "*Healthcare that fits the needs and circumstances of patients and avoids wasteful care*"¹. This will only be achieved by working in partnership with many organisations to deliver a medicines strategy in Wales that promotes safe and effective prescribing practices.
- AWMSG seeks to support the application of the following Prudent Healthcare initiative principles¹:
 - Achieve health and wellbeing with the public, patients and professionals as equal partners through co-production;
 - Care for those with the greatest health need first, making the most effective use of all skills and resources;
 - Do only what is needed, no more, no less; and do no harm;
 - Reduce inappropriate variation using evidence-based practices consistently and transparently.
- The recommendations in this strategy are aligned to these principles to ensure healthcare fits the needs and circumstances of patients and actively avoids wasteful care that is not beneficial to patients.

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INTRODUCTION

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) provides advice on newly licensed medicines and established medicines with new indications, and also develops guidance and conducts monitoring as part of a medicines optimisation programme. The medicines optimisation programme seeks to focus on patients and outcomes rather than processes and systems, and aims to support healthcare workers in advising patients on how they can achieve the best outcomes from their medicines.

AWMSG remains committed to providing authoritative advice to Welsh Government. It continues to develop mechanisms to assist with the implementation and audit of this advice within NHS Wales and regularly analyses prescribing data in order to benchmark performance and drive improvements in the service.



The work of AWMSG is planned by the AWMSG Steering Committee. This Committee prioritises AWMSG's work programme to ensure efficient use of resources.

Two advisory subgroups report to AWMSG and provide expert advice: the New Medicines Group (NMG) and the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG). In addition, various working groups are set up to develop projects in specific areas, such as the National Prescribing Indicator Task and Finish Group. AWMSG and its subgroups are supported by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) which co-ordinates AWMSG's work programme and prioritises objectives with Welsh Government. AWTTC consists of: the Patient Access to Medicines Service (PAMS); the Welsh Medicines Resource Centre (WeMeReC); the Yellow Card Centre Wales (YCC Wales); the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU); and the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS). AWTTC provides clinical, scientific and administrative support to AWMSG and its subgroups. Its roles include continuing development and support of the health technology appraisal (HTA) process, education in therapeutics and medicines safety, financial forecasting and horizon scanning.

BACKGROUND

AWMSG is committed to ensuring that patients in Wales have access to clinically effective and cost-effective medicines which improve patients' health outcomes. The strategy for the next five years (1 April 2018–31 March 2023), builds on the successes of the previous strategy, which was in place for the period 1 April 2013–31 March 2018².

Review of 2013–2018 strategy

One of the key recommendations made within the 2013–2018 strategy was related to 'Partnership with the public' and ensuring patients and service users are involved in AWMSG's work and decisions as equal partners². AWMSG has met both of the relevant outcomes for this recommendation through development of a Patient and Public Involvement Group (PAPIG) and a Citizens' Jury to report on antibiotic resistance. PAPIG meets on a regular basis, is an integral part of AWMSG processes and is consulted regularly on guideline development. The Citizens' Jury was led by Professor Marcus Longley and met over one week in the Cardiff City Hall in July 2016. After hearing all the evidence, the Jury made a series of recommendations which were submitted to Welsh Government.

Over the past five years, AWMSG has fulfilled its commitment to supporting the highest quality of prescribing for patients in Wales by developing and monitoring National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs), developing national guidelines and audits, and providing educational bulletins and prudent prescribing workshops.

NPIs are used to highlight therapeutic priorities for NHS Wales and compare the ways in which different prescribers and organisations use particular medicines or groups of medicines. Prescribing indicators should be evidence-based, clear, easily understood and allow health boards/trusts, practices and prescribers to compare current practice against an agreed standard of quality. Implementation of the NPIs has been successful in reducing much of the inappropriate variation in prescribing within Wales. AWMSG is committed to reducing inappropriate antibiotic use in order to reduce the risks of antibiotic resistance.

AWMSG also has an ongoing commitment to ensuring patient safety associated with the use of medicines. The reporting of spontaneous adverse drug reactions through the Yellow Card scheme (developed in 1964 in response to the thalidomide tragedy) is an important method of identifying new suspected adverse drug reactions and helps to prevent patients in Wales suffering medicines related harms. In the *AWMSG Five-year Strategy 2013–2018*, the recommendation was made to increase suspected adverse drug reaction reporting by healthcare professionals in Wales². AWMSG, in association with the Yellow Card Centre Wales, introduced the Yellow Card NPI (or national reporting indicator). This, together with previous initiatives, has resulted in Wales being the highest Yellow Card reporting region in the UK.

Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2017, AWMSG carried out 162 appraisals of which 147 (91%) medicines were approved for use within NHS Wales. To support the improved access to new medicines, during 2013–2018 AWMSG has:

- Enabled the appraisal of medicines identified as addressing a clear unmet need ahead of the publication of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) advice.
- Strengthened clinical expert engagement in the appraisal process.
- Reviewed the process for appraising orphan and ultra-orphan medicines, and medicines developed specifically for rare diseases, and established the Clinician and Patient Involvement Group (CAPIG).
- Improved equity of access by enabling the appraisal of medicines within Wales where a medicine has received a negative recommendation from NICE but is available via an alternative commissioning route.

- Reviewed end-of-life processes.
- Redesigned its website.
- Developed a process to adopt NICE Highly Specialised Technology (HST) guidance (now superseded).
- Developed a Patient and Public Engagement Strategy.

Principles underlying the 2018–2023 strategy

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) is committed to supporting Welsh Government's Prudent Healthcare initiative, "*Healthcare that fits the needs and circumstances of patients and avoids wasteful care*".

The recommendations in this strategy are aligned to the four Prudent Healthcare initiative principles, to ensure healthcare fits the needs and circumstances of patients and actively avoids wasteful care that is not beneficial to patients. The four principles include:

- Achieve health and wellbeing with the public, patients and professionals as equal partners through co-production;
- Care for those with the greatest health need first, making the most effective use of all skills and resources;
- Do only what is needed, no more, no less; and do no harm;
- Reduce inappropriate variation using evidence-based practices consistently and transparently.

A visual timeline displaying the outcomes AWMSG plans to achieve can be seen in Appendix 1.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

1.0 Domain 1 – Achieve health and wellbeing with the public, patients and professionals as equal partners through co-production

AWMSG is committed to working in partnership with the public, patients and professionals, and recognises the importance of ensuring patients get the maximum benefit from their medicines.

Medicines waste has been highlighted as a priority by the Auditor General for Wales' 2016 report, *Managing medicines in primary and secondary care*³, and AWMSG will work with all stakeholders to help develop a national plan to reduce medicines waste and improve adherence.

AWMSG is committed to providing fair and equitable prioritisation of healthcare and will work with patients and the public to improve communication of its decisions and ensure that clear reasons for its recommendations are made available.

Recommendations	Outcome	Date
1.1 Partnership with the public		
AWMSG will ensure that patients and the public continue to be involved in its work as equal partners through the Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG).	Increased involvement of patients and the public in AWMSG work, and increased patient and public understanding of medicines access and medicines optimisation as measured by periodic surveys.	Annually until March 2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
1.2 Reduce medicines wastage		
AWMSG acknowledges that involvement of the public and patients is essential in addressing the problem of medicines waste in primary and secondary care. As part of its commitment to working in partnership with patients and the public, AWMSG will invite PAPIG and other public organisations to support the ongoing Medicines Waste campaign.	Reduction of medicines waste in Wales by 2023 as measured by cost of medicines returned.	Annually until 2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
1.3 Ensuring fair and equitable provision of healthcare		
AWMSG will ascertain the views of patients (via PAPIG) concerning the role of social value judgements in decision making related to medicines access, to ensure that co-production with patients and the public is an integral part of AWMSG's HTA processes.	Survey to be conducted and completed, and findings presented to AWMSG.	March 2020
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

2.0 Domain 2 – Care for those with the greatest health need first, making the most effective use of all skills and resources

AWMSG recognises the importance of workforce training in taking forward the Prudent Healthcare initiative and ensuring that patients receive the most appropriate treatment for their needs¹. The contribution of all groups of healthcare professionals (e.g. pharmacists, nurses and professions allied to medicine) to medicines optimisation is vital, and AWMSG will work with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and other key groups in Wales to promote education and training in this area⁴.

The Auditor General for Wales' report identified that health bodies may not have a true picture of the cost of homecare services and advised a national audit of compliance to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Wales' *Handbook for Homecare Services in Wales*^{3,5}.

Recommendations	Outcomes	Date
2.1 Workforce development		
AWMSG will encourage and support health boards/trusts to provide educational opportunities for healthcare professionals to become involved in local medicines optimisation issues. AWMSG, through AWTTTC, will develop educational resources (including via digital platforms) to ensure that healthcare professionals have access to evidence-based information on current best practice in prudent prescribing, particularly in patients with multimorbidities requiring polypharmacy.	Continued improvement in satisfaction scores for educational initiatives and resources delivered by AWTTTC.	Annually until 2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
2.2 Medicines Homecare Services		
AWMSG will: work with key stakeholders to monitor Medicines Homecare Services in Wales; support health boards/trusts in the audit of compliance with measures set out in the <i>Handbook for Homecare Services in Wales</i> ⁵ ; and help develop an All Wales plan to ensure the most effective use of resources.	Audit compliance with, and review the impact of, the <i>Handbook for Homecare Services in Wales</i> ⁵ .	March 2020
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
2.3 Safe Medication Systems (for vulnerable patients in care homes and domiciliary settings)		
To help protect vulnerable patients, AWMSG will support the development of principles and policy across health and social care settings to ensure safe systems for medication administration are available.	Review of policies for delivery of medication support in care homes and domiciliary settings.	March 2019
	Demonstration of improved medication administration to vulnerable patients through the implementation of agreed national principles and policy for delivery of medication support in care homes and domiciliary settings.	March 2021
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

3.0 Domain 3 – Do only what is needed, no more, no less; and do no harm

AWMSG recognises the importance of preventing medication-related hospital admissions in Wales, in line with observations within the Auditor General for Wales' report that the current recording of medication-related admissions is poor³. Therefore, improving awareness of medication-related admission recording and supporting initiatives in order to improve patient outcomes is a priority within this AWMSG strategy.

Through the introduction of the Yellow Card NPI, AWMSG has helped to increase reporting of adverse reactions in primary care to 50% higher than the rest of the UK (Auditor General for Wales' report). The Auditor General for Wales' report, however, highlighted that only a third of secondary care doctors agreed/strongly agreed that the Yellow Card scheme is promoted effectively³. AWMSG will ask YCC Wales to identify initiatives to promote Yellow Card reporting by secondary care physicians and also by patients and carers.

AWMSG is committed to promoting medication safety by ensuring all health professionals in Wales have access to a standardised, nationally agreed, medication review process.

AWMSG will work with the All Wales Medical Genetics Service (AWMGS) as part of the Genomics for Precision Medicines Strategy in Wales with a particular focus on reducing adverse drug reaction (ADR) burden⁶.

AWMSG also supports the goal of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Patient Safety Challenge, *Medication Without Harm*: to reduce the level of severe, avoidable harm related to medications by 50% over 5 years, globally⁷.

Recommendations	Outcome	Date
3.1 Medication-related admissions		
AWMSG will support the development of hospital recording of medication-related admissions (i.e. hospital admissions as a result of harm attributed to medication use) and support initiatives to reduce these admissions over the next five years.	Develop robust methodologies to conduct periodic audits of patient safety indicators and also monitoring of medication-related admissions using coding data.	Regularly until 2023
	Application of the data to highlight priorities and measure improvement around medication related admissions.	Ongoing until March 2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please) IMSI?		
3.2 Medication review		
AWMSG is aware of the increasing prevalence of polypharmacy within the population of Wales ^{8,9} . AWMSG will work with stakeholders to help develop standardised medicine review tools for use by healthcare professionals.	Implement a nationally agreed, multi-professional standard for medicine reviews.	Dec 2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
3.3 National in-patient prescribing chart		
Until electronic prescribing is introduced across NHS Wales, AWMSG (through AWTTTC and the All Wales Quality and Patient Safety Group) will audit adherence to national prescribing standards and appropriate use of the single national in-patient prescribing chart.	Develop a baseline measure for compliance with the national prescribing standards, identify poor practice, and introduce interventions to address shortcomings.	Annual
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

Table continued overleaf.

3.4 Medicine-related harm		
AWMSG is committed to reducing medicine-related harm over the next five years. AWMSG will identify areas of potential harm from prescribing medications in vulnerable groups of patients and, through development of learning resources and appropriate NPIs, will encourage safe prescribing in these areas.	Reduction in cases of medicine-related harm by 50% over the next 5 years in areas identified by NHS Wales, in line with the aims of the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge, <i>Medication Without Harm</i> ⁷ .	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please) IMSI?		
3.5 Pharmacovigilance		
Over the next five years, AWMSG will support YCC Wales in promoting initiatives to improve healthcare professionals' understanding of the importance of adverse drug reactions and further improve reporting rates in secondary care and by patients and carers in Wales.	Roll-out of educational materials aimed at secondary care, primary care and the general public to improve understanding and rates of spontaneous reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions.	2023
Stakeholder lead: YCC advisory group		
3.6-Resource reallocation		
AWMSG is committed to making the most effective use of healthcare resources in Wales. Through an evidence-based approach, AWMSG will identify medicines which show limited efficacy and will advise on their future place in therapy in NHS Wales.	Development of a process to support evidence-based, appropriate disinvestment of medicines considered as low-priority in NHS Wales.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

4.0 Domain 4 – Reduce inappropriate variation using evidence-based practices consistently and transparently

AWMSG is committed to supporting Welsh Government’s aspiration for better use of new and improved technologies to deliver more effective, efficient and safe care.

The Auditor General for Wales’ report highlighted the national plan to implement electronic prescribing in Wales³. AWMSG is committed to continuing to engage with stakeholders to support the implementation of this important initiative in Wales.

AWMSG is dedicated to providing Chief Pharmacists, Medicines and Therapeutics Committees, and Medical Directors with information on medicines optimisation to ensure wide communication of prescribing issues across health boards/trusts.

AWMSG supports the need to have an effective repeat prescribing system within Wales, as identified in the Auditor General for Wales’ report³, in order to address the growing challenge of multimorbidity and polypharmacy.

It has already been demonstrated that implementation of NPIs is associated with improvements in medicines usage in Wales. The Auditor General for Wales’ report highlighted that AWMSG should continue to develop NPIs to ensure the right patients are receiving the right medicines and establish whether those medicines are making a difference to people’s outcomes³.

AWMSG is committed to working with all stakeholders in order to continue providing authoritative, robust, transparent and timely HTAs, and also to providing prescribers in Wales with information on medicines usage in Wales. The New Treatment Fund (NTF) set up by Welsh Government aims to improve, and reduce variation in, provision of clinically effective and cost-effective medicines for the people of Wales.

Recommendations	Outcomes	Date
4.1 Electronic prescribing		
AWMSG will work with stakeholders, including the NHS Wales Informatics Service and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership, to support the introduction of an electronic prescribing system to be used throughout NHS Hospitals in Wales.	Support the introduction of an electronic prescribing system in Wales.	2023
AWMSG will promote wider access to GP records so that all pharmacists, community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians delivering clinical services on wards can access the system.	Support the introduction of pharmacy access to GP records.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.2 Nationally available medicines list		
AWMSG will support the development of a list of nationally available medicines (i.e. a list of medicines available in Wales, incorporating medicines that have received a positive appraisal from AWMSG and NICE) to support the introduction of electronic prescribing.	Development of a nationally available medicines list to support the introduction of e-prescribing in Wales.	2020
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales		
AWMSG will task AWTTTC with improving communication between health boards/trusts by holding annual update meetings to discuss AWMSG recommendations and best practice initiatives, to support a collaborative approach and reduce inappropriate variation in prescribing throughout NHS Wales.	Development of processes to measure variation in NPI achievement rates between health boards.	2023
	Demonstrable reduction in variation in achievement of NPIs between health boards.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

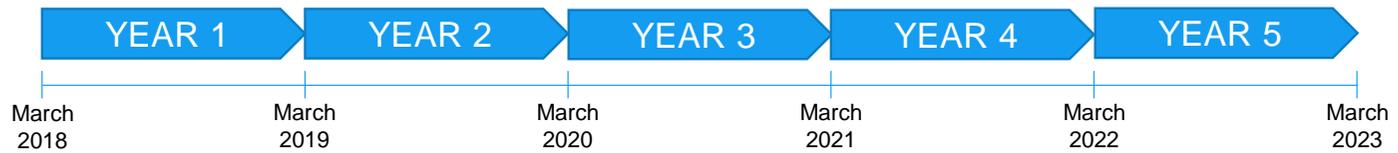
Table continued overleaf.

4.4 Repeat prescribing systems		
AWMSG is committed to working with stakeholders to improve repeat prescribing systems. AWMSG will review and consider the recommendations of the Chief Pharmacist Task and Finish Group on repeat prescribing with regards to the planning and roll out of improved repeat prescribing systems.	Endorsement by AWMSG of the Chief Pharmacist Task and Finish Group recommendations on repeat prescribing.	2022
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.5 National Prescribing Indicators		
AWMSG will work with health boards/trusts to develop NPIs that inform measurable improvements in the quality of healthcare and improved patient outcomes, and include audit and review activity. AWMSG is committed to using all available information technology to monitor the clinical appropriateness of the NPIs and achievement of desired outcomes.	Demonstrable improvement in healthcare outcomes for patients in Wales.	Dec 2022
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.6 HTA – ensuring the appraisal process is reviewed and meets the developing needs of NHS Wales		
AWMSG will continue to provide an internationally respected HTA process for the introduction of new medicines for patients in Wales. AWMSG will be responsive to developments in the UK and EU HTA processes, to ensure it meets the changing needs of the NHS in Wales.	Improved collaboration with other UK HTA bodies and agencies involved in advice concerning the approval of therapeutic products (e.g. Rare Diseases Implementation Group, Health Technology Wales and Welsh Blood Transfusion Service).	2023
	Survey—evidence of patient/public and healthcare professional confidence in AWMSG HTA processes.	At intervals until 2023
	Consideration of all relevant factors when appraising orphan and ultra-orphan medicines and medicines developed specifically to treat rare diseases.	2023
	AWMSG, working with Blood Transfusion Service, will develop the appraisal process to include cell and gene therapy.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.7 Wales Patient Access Scheme – ensuring NHS Wales recoups any financial discounts		
AWMSG will facilitate patient access to medicines that would normally exceed expected levels of cost effectiveness through continued development, application and monitoring of Wales Patient Access Schemes (WPAS) and systems to recoup the associated savings.	Maximised cost efficiencies for early access to medicines whilst ensuring patient access to all medicines recommended via HTA by NICE or AWMSG.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		
4.8 Using data to improve patient outcomes		
AWMSG is committed to the regular analysis of prescribing data to ensure attention is focused on the areas of greatest benefit in terms of cost and clinical effectiveness of medicines for patients in Wales. AWMSG will engage with all stakeholders to utilise available databases and methods of analysis over the next five years.	Demonstrable evidence-based benefit to patient safety, outcomes and care associated with improved analysis of prescribing data.	2023
Stakeholder lead: (volunteers/suggestions please)		

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APPENDIX 1. AWMSG STRATEGY TIMELINE



Domain 1	1.1 Partnership with the public	Increase involvement and understanding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase involvement and understanding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase involvement and understanding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase involvement and understanding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase involvement and understanding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	1.2 Reduce medicines wastage	Medicines wastage campaign	Medicines wastage campaign	Medicines wastage campaign	Medicines wastage campaign	Medicines wastage campaign
	1.3 Ensuring fair and equitable provision of healthcare	Conduct survey and present findings to AWMSG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Domain 2	2.1 Workforce development	Continue to provide educational materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to provide educational materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to provide educational materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to provide educational materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to provide educational materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2.2 Medicines Homecare Services	Audit compliance and review impact of the Handbook for Homecare Services in Wales				
	2.3 Safe Medication Systems	Review policies	Demonstrate improvement			
Domain 3	3.1 Medication related admissions	Continue monitoring	Continue monitoring	Continue monitoring	Continue monitoring	Continue monitoring
	Application of data to highlight priorities and measure improvement					
	3.2 Medication review	Develop and implement standardised, multi-professional medicine review tools				
	3.3 National in-patient prescribing chart	Develop baseline for compliance	Audit and introduce interventions			
	3.4 Medicine-related harm	Support reduction in cases of medicine-related harm				
	3.5 Pharmacovigilance	Continue roll-out of educational materials				
3.6 Resource reallocation	Develop a process to support appropriate disinvestment of medicines considered as low priority					

Survey Measure Audit Develop Endorse
AWMSG

