Welcome to the July edition of the Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) Collaborative newsletter. In this edition, we’d like to share with you some exciting news about our new team members and some of our current work on behalf of ADTCs.

Previous editions of our newsletters are still available on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website [here](#).

If you have any comments on the new look or if you have issues with viewing the newsletter, please contact us at [hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net](mailto:hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net).

### Biological medicines – a framework for safety and consistency

Biological medicines have revolutionised patient treatment by offering new and effective treatments for a range of conditions.

Derived from living cells or organisms, biological medicines differ from generic medicines and are highly complex in their structure. A biosimilar medicine is a biological medicine that is similar to another biological medicine that is already available. The biosimilar medicine must demonstrate that it is similar to the original product and does not have any meaningful quality, safety or efficacy differences.

Eight of the top 10 medicines by expenditure used in the hospital setting in Scotland in the year to 31 March 2017 were biological medicines such as adalimumab, etanercept, and infliximab for a range of conditions including, autoimmune diseases, cancer and enzyme deficiencies.

Some biological medicines have lost patent protection within the last 3 years, with others due to expire in coming years, meaning there is competition from biosimilar medicines. This offers the opportunity to maintain the quality of care for patients but with a reduction in cost for the NHS. Biological medicines now have biosimilars available and a further £46m of current biological medicine spend is expected to face biosimilar competition for the first time within the next 3 years.

To help manage this change, Healthcare Improvement Scotland developed a prescribing framework in 2015 aligned with the ambitions of the NHSScotland Healthcare Quality Strategy which aims to ensure the most appropriate treatments, interventions, support and services are provided at the right time to everyone who will benefit, and to eradicate wasteful or harmful variation in how the medicines are used across NHSScotland.

We recently updated the prescribing framework, building upon the principles of the previous document.
The framework prescribing principles are to:

- promote the safe use of biosimilar medicines
- promote prescriber confidence
- ensure a shared decision-making approach between clinician and patient.
- encourage a consistent approach across NHSScotland
- support National Procurement
- recognise the potential savings that can be achievable within NHSScotland by the use of biosimilar medicines, and
- provide guidance on implementing the use of biosimilar medicines.

To help guide NHS Boards in their decision making, we also published a number of case studies alongside key learning points.

The case studies outline the experiences, challenges and lessons learned to date by NHS Boards such as NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Lothian – their experiences demonstrating that it is possible to maintain the highest level of care for the patient and make financial savings.

In collaboration with National Procurement we will continue to support NHS Boards with the introduction of biosimilars as they become available, and as our experience of prescribing these medicines grows.

**Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (HEPMA) in NHS Forth Valley**

NHS Forth Valley successfully implemented Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (HEPMA) across the acute hospital (726 beds) (Forth Valley Royal Hospital) in 11 months. This was followed by full roll-out to four community hospitals and three community mental health units in six months.

A project of this scale and complexity is a rich source of learning and therefore NHS Forth Valley in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland commissioned a formal assessment of 'lessons learned' to share with colleagues in other NHS boards.

This [report](#) summarises the key findings of the full report of the NHS Forth Valley implementation.

**PACS Tier 2**

**National Review Panel (NRP)**

The National Review Panel came into effect on 1 June 2018, reflecting the amendments made to the guidance, by Scottish Government, for the National Appeals Panel.
In March, following the successful recruitment of a number of Public Partners to the review panel cohort, the NRP team held an induction session. Public Partner involvement provides a very useful real world view on the review process.

On 30 May 2018, there was a final mock review panel following the reissue of the national guidance. This allowed full end-to-end testing of HIS processes, timelines, briefing materials and further panel role development.

As part of the continued support, the ADTC Collaborative will assist health boards in their approach to medicines not covered by the PACS Tier 2.

**National Review Panel Dates 2018**

- Tuesday, 28 August
- Wednesday, 26 September
- Wednesday, 24 October
- Wednesday, 21 November
- Wednesday, 19 December

**PACS Tier 2 Patient Information Leaflet**

In May, the ADTC Collaborative worked closely with colleagues from the West of Scotland, Public Partners involved in the National Review Panel and the HIS Public Partners reading group to develop a patient information leaflet template that can be adapted by boards, to include local NHS logos and contact details and provides information for every patient at the beginning of the PACS Tier 2 process.

The leaflet can be found on the ADTC Collaborative page of the Technologies and Medicines section of the HIS website or via Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee Collaborative (ADTC Collaborative) in the Resources for NHS boards and staff section.

**PACS Tier 2: Policy Statement and Decision Checklist**

A Policy Statement and Decision Checklist, for PACS Tier 2, was been created by a short life working group, Chaired by Christine Gilmour, Director of Pharmacy, NHS Lanarkshire. The aim of the work is to support boards in adopting a consistent approach to the implementation of PACS Tier 2, as many boards may still be going through local governance structures around PACS Tier 2. Boards are free to adapt these to fit with their local processes.

On 8 August 2018, a further short life working group will meet to work to reach consensus on how best to process SMC non-submissions.

**Patient Group Directions (PGDs) – Short Life Working Group**

At the last ADTC Chairs’ and Professional Secretaries’ (ADTC) webex, Prof Simon Maxwell, ADTC Chair, NHS Lothian opened a discussion on PGDs. The attending group agreed that it would be useful to explore the feasibility of a “once for Scotland” approach for PGDs. Volunteers for a short life working group, facilitated by the ADTC Collaborative should be sent to the ADTCC email address - hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net by Friday 31 August 2018.
Palliative Care Guidelines Survey
Healthcare Improvement Scotland is asking practitioners in Scotland to share examples of how the Palliative Care Guidelines are used in practice.

A brief survey has recently been launched to help gather this information. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it and share your experience. Survey Link: http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WB1OE/

Questions or queries?
Contact the team at Healthcare Improvement Scotland

New team members

We’re delighted to welcome two new Programme Managers to the Medicines and Pharmacy Team. Shonagh Ramsey will provide support for Medicines and ADTC Collaborative and Emma Wylie who will support the National Review Panel (previously the National Appeals Panel) and the Health Foundation funded Scottish Quality Registry Pilot (SQR).

Shonagh Ramsey

After graduating from Dundee University, with a First Class MA Hons in English and History, I had a brief period working in banking before joining the NHS.

I started my career in the NHS at NHS England working for the Intelligence and Strategy Directorate at Quarry House in Leeds. I moved back to Scotland and joined Healthcare Improvement Scotland. I have now worked in the organisation for over 4 years working with the Knowledge Management and Standards and Indicators teams, Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative in the Scottish Patient Safety Programme, before moving on to work in the Scottish Health Technologies Group. I have now joined the Medicines and Pharmacy team on secondment until June 2019.

Emma Wylie

I qualified as a nurse in 2005 following my degree in Nursing from Napier University in Edinburgh. I worked in theatre departments of different medical specialities all over NHS Lothian for six years.

Following an injury at work, I changed career direction and worked as an account manager for 3M healthcare for six years. Covering the whole of Scotland for the Bair Hugger brand among other products.
I wanted to move back into the NHS and I have worked as a programme manager at Healthcare Improvement Scotland since November 2017. My first team was the Quality Improvement for NHS Board Members in the ihub. The Medicines team will be my second team.

I live in Linlithgow with my husband Ian and love walking around our beautiful village. I also have a passion for food and drink. I love trying out new restaurants and recipes. My photo was taken in the Three Chimneys restaurant in Skye which I recommend, the food was lovely.

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Data protection laws have changed. You do not need to do anything because of this. However, we have updated our privacy notice so that it says more about how we use your personal information, and your rights. You can read our privacy notice online at:

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/footernav/respecting_your_privacy.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/footernav/respecting_your_privacy.aspx)

**ADTC webex dates**
- 12 September 2018
- 14 November 2018
- 23 January 2019
- 26 March 2019
- 19 June 2019
- 27 August 2019
- 6 November 2019

**Formulary Network Scotland webex dates**
- 4 September 2018
- 18 December
- 13 March 2019
- 6 June 2019

**Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for me?**

There are copies of the booklet, *Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for me?* available to order from the ADTC Collaborative by emailing - hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net.

The booklet is available to view and download from the Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) website [Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for me?](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/).