Welcome to the October 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 with 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.

Your ADTC needs you!

If you’re a Doctor, reading this newsletter, then you must have at least some passing interest in medicines and governance. Why not get involved in your local ADTC? Most ADTCs are keen to have more clinical involvement and will welcome you with open arms! The time commitment can be as much or as little as your job plan allows. Before I got involved in the Dumfries and Galloway ADTC, I have to admit I thought the whole ADTC thing was a bit dull and boring. Not so! It has introduced me to a whole new team of very reasonable, knowledgeable professionals (Pharmacists), opened my eyes to an area of healthcare that consumes vast resources and allowed me the opportunity to develop professionally.

So, as I say, why not contact your local ADTC Chair and ask if you can get involved? Or if you want to chat, please don’t hesitate to contact me, Dr Ewan Bell, National Clinical Lead, ADTCC and NRP at hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net.

Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS)

The most recent Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) medicine to be made available was patisiran-LNP to treat adults with hereditary transthyretin-mediated amyloidosis (hATTR amyloidosis) which received a positive scientific opinion on 2 August 2018.

The proposed exit strategy was shorter than that normally acceptable to the NHS in Scotland and negotiations with the pharmaceutical company, Alnylam UK Ltd, contributed to delays in finalising operational guidance. National Procurement colleagues were also involved in discussions as it was proposed that the medicine, prepared as an IV infusion, be administered by staff in the patient’s home. ADTC Collaborative liaised directly with those NHS boards where EAMS eligible patients were domiciled to raise awareness of these challenges and the likelihood of a short EAMS period.
Patisiran was granted a marketing authorisation 25 days after the EAMS was launched, bringing the EAMS period to an end. One of the MHRA core principles of EAMS was that medicines could be made available to patients for up to 12 to 18 months prior to formal marketing authorisation. In reality, more than half of EAMS medicines have been made available for less than three months.

Please remember that, if NHS boards have patients who might benefit from an EAMS medicine, clinicians can access EAMS medicines without waiting for the ADTC Collaborative to issue operational guidance by obtaining the relevant current EAMS information on the MHRA current EAMS webpage. Information on withdrawn EAMS medicines, including stop dates, can be found on the MHRA expired EAMS webpage.

Current EAMS
Operational guidance for current EAMS medicines can be found on our webpage at

Withdrawn EAMS
Nivolumab (EAMS No. 15105/0008)
Nivolumab for the treatment of adult patients with advanced or recurrent gastric or gastro-esophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma after two or more prior systemic therapies. This EAMS closed to new patients on the 16 August 2018. Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Limited withdrew from the drug licensing process and from the EAMS. More information about the withdrawal from the drug licensing process can be found on the EMA webpage:

Peer Approved Clinical System Tier 2 & National Review Panel
PACS Tier 2 and NRP learning event
The National Review Panel (NRP) team, within Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), is holding a shared learning event as part of the continued support it provides to NHS Scotland boards. The event will take place on Wednesday 28 November 2018, 10am-2pm in the HIS Offices in Delta House, Glasgow, and will provide the opportunity for all groups involved in the PACS Tier 2 and NRP – local boards, Scottish Government, Public Partners and HIS – to share their experiences and look at opportunities for learning.

The team would like two delegates to attend from each of the NHS Scotland local Health Boards who are prepared to share the local experience they have had through their active involvement in the local delivery, or governance, of the PACS Tier 2 process and engagement with the NRP.

Once you have identified your attendees can you forward this link to the Eventbrite page so that they can register their place by Wednesday, 7 November.

Please note that there are restricted numbers for this event.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pacs-tier-2-and-national-review-panel-learning-event-tickets-50960785080
National Review Panel

The first National Review Panel took place on Wednesday, 26 September and the learning from this will be a key item on the agenda for 28 November.

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<th>National Review Panel Dates 2019</th>
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Collaborative Working

This month, the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) for Patient Group Directions (PGDs) had its first meeting, which was attended, via webex, by representatives from the majority of NHS boards and some of the special boards across NHS Scotland. This work was started following a discussion at the ADTC Chairs’ and Professional Secretaries’ (ADTC) webex, to explore the feasibility of a “once for Scotland” approach for PGDs. Information on how this work is progressing will be included in future newsletters.

If you have an area of work that you think would benefit from collaboration between ADTCs, please send details to the ADTC Collaborative email address - hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net, or request time at the ADTC webex. As well as working on PGDs, the ADTCC has facilitated work on the Patient Information Leaflet for PACS Tier 2 and is currently developing a national template for ADTC Terms of Reference.

DOAC Patient Information Booklet and Alert Card

The NHSGGC Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) Therapy, Patient Information Booklet and Alert Card are now available. These are suitable for patients on apixaban, abigatran, edoxaban, or rivaroxaban. The booklet contains information on:

- How to take your medicine
- How to manage missed doses
- Side effects
- Things that may affect your medicine

Printed copies of the Patient Booklet and Alert Card are now available for use in hospitals across NHSGGC. The plan is for printed copies to be available in GP Practices and Community Pharmacies in due course. For the electronic version of this new resource click here.

An anonymous survey is available to collect feedback from patients and health care professionals on this new resource – the survey is available here.
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) toolkit

Our NSAIDs toolkit has been distributed to community pharmacies throughout Scotland. The toolkit resources will help to provide the key safety messages to patients and customers whenever NSAIDs are dispensed or purchased. As this group of drugs is associated with more emergency hospital admissions due to adverse drug reactions than any other class of medicine, this will make a real difference to people’s health outcomes.

The toolkit is available on our website: ihub.scot/pharmacy-pack/

ADTC Collaborative Team news

Some of you may already be aware that Sharon Pfleger has returned to her substantive role in NHS Highland as Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health following two and half years as National Clinical Lead for the ADTC Collaborative. The wealth of knowledge and experience Sharon brought to the ADTCC team was invaluable and we will miss her.

We would like to thank Sharon on behalf of her colleagues in Healthcare Improvement Scotland for her outstanding Clinical Leadership, hard work, support and professionalism- and we wish her well in her substantive post.

We are pleased to advise that Dr Ewan Bell, Chair of Dumfries and Galloway ADTC has agreed to be the National Clinical Lead for the ADTCC until March 2019 and Scott Hill, Lead Pharmacist for Acute Services, Forth Valley will also provide Clinical Leadership to the ADTCC until March 2019. They both bring a wealth of relevant experience to the team and we wish them well in their roles.

Scott Hill, ADTCC Clinical Lead

I started my career in the NHS as the Clinical Effectiveness Pharmacist in NHS Fife supporting the formulary and acting a Professional Secretary to the Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee. Prior to this I had worked for 10 years as a community pharmacist. Following completion of a Master in Public Health I stayed with NHS Fife as a Public Health Pharmacist before moving to work with the Scottish Government Health Emergency Planning Team through an SLA with NHS Scotland National Procurement. Following a short part time secondment into the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) I then took on a full time secondment with NHS Forth Valley as Acute Lead Pharmacist to develop my understanding of the delivery of acute pharmacy services and then secured the job on a permanent basis where I have worked for nearly five years.

In August I joined the Medicines and Pharmacy Team on secondment as the Clinical Lead (Pharmacy) for the ADTCC and my time will be divided with the SMC until March 2019.

I live in Fife with my wife and family and enjoying running, trying to keep fit, travelling and spending time with my friends and family.
ADTC webex dates
- 14 November 2018
- 23 January 2019
- 26 March 2019
- 19 June 2019
- 27 August 2019
- 6 November 2019

Formulary Network Scotland webex dates
- 18 December
- 13 March 2019
- 6 June 2019