

Safe prescribing and withdrawal management Committee meeting 10

Date: 07 December 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting: Zoom platform

Minutes: Final

Committee members present:		
Stannard: Cathy (Topic adviser)		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Buitendach: Mark		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Davies: Emma		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Ellis: Benjamin		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Finch: Emily		(Present for notes 2 – 6)
Foell: Jens		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Montagu: Luke		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Watson: Caroline		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Ramanuj: Parashar		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Montagu: Luke		(Present for notes 1 – 6)
In attendance:		
O'Flynn: Norma	NGC, COO (Chair)	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Carville: Serena	NGC, Associate Director, Guideline Lead	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Clubbe: Richard	NGC, Research Fellow	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Diaz: Tamara	NGC, Project Manager	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Mariani: Alfredo	NGC, Health Economist	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Terrazas-Cruz: Emily	NGC, Senior Research Fellow	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Vasileiou: Melina	NGC, Research Fellow	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Keir: Caroline	NICE, Guideline Commissioning Manager	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Cooptees:		
Andre Geel		(Present for notes 4 – 6)
Observers:		
McBride: Judith	NICE, Editor	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Mather: Ian	NICE, Business Analyst	(Present for notes 1 – 6)
Lally: Margaret	Observer	(Present for notes 2 – 6)
Apologies: Louise Trewern		

1. Welcome and objectives for the meeting

The Chair introduced herself to the committee and welcomed members and attendees to the 10th meeting of the safe prescribing and withdrawal management guideline committee. Apologies were received from Louise Trewern.

The Chair acknowledged the resignation of the previously appointed guideline Chair and outlined next steps in recruitment of a chair for the committee. The Chair then outlined the objectives of the meeting, which included a review of areas covered to date and a continuation of evidence and discussion of interventions for withdrawal of prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The committee agreed that the minutes of GC 09 were an accurate record of the previous virtual meeting, subject to minor edits: Caroline Watson should be removed from the list of attendees and noted as sending apologies. Item 5 should be edited to indicate that further discussions will be held at a later meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

The Chair invited Committee members to verbally declare any new conflicts that would have arisen since the last meeting. All new declarations have been listed below:

Name	Job title, organisation	Declarations of Interest, date declared	Type of interest	Decision taken
Parashar Ramanuj	Consultant Psychiatrist	Delivered a talk to the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust Academic Program entitled: 'Pain for psychiatrists: not all painful'.	Non-financial Direct	Non-specific. Declare and participate
Caroline Watson	General Practitioner	Invited to join the clinical advisory group for NHS England and dependence for medicine program as the Royal College of General Practitioners secure environment group representative.	Non-financial Direct	Specific Declare and participate

Cathy Stannard	Topic Advisor	Delivered an annual lecture to the 13th Royal Marsden conference on opioids cannabinoids and gabapentinoids, entitled: Opioids for non-cancer pain.	Non-financial Direct	Declare and participate
		Recently participated in a daily discussion event which focused on the opioid crisis, following the successful lawsuit against the Sackler family in the US. This was hosted by Tortoise media.	Non-financial Direct	Non-specific Declare and participate
Luke Montagu:	Lay member	Invited to join the clinical advisory group for NHS England and dependence for medicine program as the Royal College of General Practitioners secure environment group representative. Will decide and confirm at a later date if he will participate directly.	Non-financial Direct	Specific Declare and participate

The interests declared at previous meetings and the above declarations did not prevent attendees from fully participating in the meeting.

4. Guideline overview

An overview of evidence reviewed to date was presented to the group. This included evidence reviews on monitoring, information and support, and withdrawal interventions for different drug classes (with the exception of Antidepressants, which will be presented at a later date). Evidence reviews relating to risk factors, optimal prescribing strategies and withdrawal symptoms will be looked at, during future meetings.

5. Evidence discussion

Withdrawal interventions (different drug classes):

- The committee developed draft consensus recommendations on important principles for approach to withdrawal of medicines
- Evidence presented to date on interventions to support withdrawal was reviewed.
- The committee discussed conclusions from the evidence presented and implications for practice.
- Potential draft recommendations were discussed.

6. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting ended at 1500.

Date of next meeting: 19 January 2021

Location of next meeting: Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform