



**Confirmed Minutes of Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 18 February 2020 at 12.30 pm  
Delta House, 50 West Nile Street, Glasgow**

**Present:**

**SAPG Project Board**

Dr Andrew Seaton (Chair), Consultant Physician, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde  
Dr Gail Haddock (Vice Chair), General Practitioner, NHS Highland  
Dr Jacqueline Sneddon, Project Lead Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group  
Mr William Malcolm, Pharmaceutical Advisor, Health Protection Scotland  
Mrs Christine Gilmour, Chief Pharmacist, NHS Lanarkshire  
Mrs Ruth Robertson, Health Protection and HAI Education Programme Manager, NHS Education for Scotland (via TC)

**SAPG Support Services**

Dr Lesley Cooper, Health Services Researcher, Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group  
Ms Marion Pirie, Project Officer, Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group

**National Services Scotland**

Ms Linsey Baxter, Information Analyst, National Services Scotland  
Ms Julie Wilson, AMR Manager, Health Protection Scotland

**Antimicrobial Management Teams**

Ms Kayleigh Hamilton, Antimicrobial Pharmacist, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (*deputising for Ursula Altmeyer*)  
Mrs Susan Coyle, Antimicrobial Pharmacist, NHS Dumfries and Galloway AMT (*deputising for Bryan Marshall*)  
Dr Alistair Macfie, Medical Director, Golden Jubilee National Hospital  
Dr Robbie Weir, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Forth Valley  
Dr Katherine Hylands, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Lanarkshire (*deputising for Stephanie Dundas*)

**Representing professional groups and specialties**

Ms Ysobel Gourlay, Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacist, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (Professional Secretary for ScotMARAP and representing Association of Scottish Antimicrobial Pharmacists)  
Mrs Nykoma Hamilton, Infection Control Nurse, NHS Fife (*deputising for Diane Stark*)  
Dr Mairi Macleod, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Scottish Microbiology and Virology Network)  
Mrs Jo McEwen, Antimicrobial Nurse Specialist, NHS Tayside (Nursing)  
Dr Deirdre O'Driscoll, General Practitioner, Glasgow  
Dr Linda Bagraade, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Tayside (Infection Control Doctors group) (*deputising for Ben Parcell*)  
Ms Anne Thomson, Lead Clinical Pharmacist Prescribing, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Scottish Prescribing Advisers Association)

**Public partners:**

Jim Findlay

**Guests:**

Ms Dory Kovacs, 2nd PhD student, University of Glasgow  
Ms Ayodeji Matuluko, PhD Candidate  
Ms Lindsey Milroy, Practice Educator, NES (via TC)

**Apologies:**

Dr Ursula Altmeyer, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Dr Vhairi Bateman, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, NHS Grampian  
Professor Marion Bennie, Chief Pharmaceutical Advisor, National Medicines Utilisation Unit, Information Services Division  
Professor Hazel Borland, Nurse Director, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Dr Adam Brown, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Highland

Mrs Alison Cockburn, Antimicrobial Pharmacist, NHS Lothian (Association of Scottish Antimicrobial Pharmacists)

Dr Brian Cook, Medical Director, Acute Services, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian

Dr Conor Doherty, Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Ms Sue Downie, Public Partner, HIS

Dr Stephanie Dundas, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, NHS Lanarkshire

Dr Morgan Evans, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, NHS Lothian

Dr David Griffith, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Fife

Dr John Harden, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, NHS Lanarkshire, and National Clinical Lead for Quality & Safety Scottish Government

Mrs Rebecca Houston, Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacist, Golden Jubilee National Hospital

Ms Josephine Ives, Policy Lead HAI/AMR Policy Unit, Scottish Government

Mrs Alison MacDonald, Area Antimicrobial Pharmacist, NHS Highland

Mr Michael MacMillan, Public Partner, HIS

Dr Bryan Marshall, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Dr Busi Mooka, Consultant Physician, NHS Tayside

Dr Keith Morris, AMR/HCAI Medical Adviser for Scottish Government

Dr Ben Parcell, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Tayside (Infection Control Doctors group)

Professor Andrew Smith, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Dental)

Ms Diane Stark, Senior Infection Control Nurse, NHS Highland

Ms Sarah Thirlwell, Information Analyst, National Services Scotland

Dr Janine Thoullass, Consultant Public Health Medicine, Health Protection Scotland

Dr Becky Wilson, Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Grampian & NHS Orkney

Mrs Alison Wilson, Director of Pharmacy, NHS Borders

Mr Bob Wilson, Infection Control Manager, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies for absence</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed all those present in the room and via teleconference and advised of apologies.</p> <p>Introduced Dory Kovacs, 2nd PhD student, University of Glasgow (looking at the epidemiology of antibiotic resistance in Tanzanian hospitals) and Ayodeji Matuluko, PhD Candidate who is supporting implementation of the Hospital Antibiotic Review Programme (HARP).</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Interests (DOI)</b></p> <p>The Chair requested that any member declarations of interest should be highlighted in advance of relevant items.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Membership changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Cook stepping down as Associate Medical Director, NHS Lothian. Chair formally thanked Brian for his longstanding contribution to SAPG and Project Board.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 were agreed.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SBAR on utilising HEPMA to support antimicrobial stewardship</b></li> </ul> <p>JS updated on the SBAR discussed at the last meeting which was submitted to the national HEPMA (Hospital Electronic Medicines Prescribing and Administration) Implementation Group chaired by Gail Caldwell, Director Pharmacy NHS GGC. The Implementation Group were supportive and suggested that SAPG feed into other national work. Subsequent discussions with NHS Lothian around a UK wide project to embed the Antibiotic Review Kit (ARK) study features, which are similar to SAPG proposal, within the WellSky HEPMA system. JS has made contact with this project group and will provide a further update in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SBAR on discharge antibiotics and TTO (to take out) packs – feedback from Directors of Pharmacy (DoP)</b></li> </ul> <p>JS reported SBAR was sent to Directors of Pharmacy with the aim to seek support in</p>	

	<p>optimising the quantity of antibiotics supplied to patients on discharge. Feedback discussed at SAPG Project Board and DoPs were supportive of SAPG suggestions. Two key areas: the use of TTO packs and how to standardise and rationalise these; local processes to ensure prescriptions dispensed in Pharmacy have the correct quantity taking account of prior therapy. JS will liaise with Tayside Pharmaceuticals around shorter duration packs and will also discuss with National Acute Pharmacy Leads group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Patient Group Directions (PGDs) for trimethoprim and fusidic acid cream</b></li> </ul> <p>JS advised changes were made as agreed at last meeting. New PGDs will go live in April 2020. JS working with Allan Thomas, Lead Pharmacist Public Health &amp; Community, on national assessment forms and will update on this at a future meeting.</p>	
	<b>Items for discussion and agreement</b>	
6	<p><b>Review of NICE guidance on respiratory tract infections</b></p> <p>JS reported NICE have been producing a series of antimicrobial prescribing guidelines. It was agreed to re-establish a virtual SAPG Primary Care sub-group to review NICE guidance to check if there is variation with Scottish practice and inform a national view on adoption. The sub-group has reviewed NICE antimicrobial prescribing guidelines on respiratory infections and provided comments. Following broad discussion it was agreed that a process parallel to that used by HPS for PHE guidance should be developed. JS proposed a paper be brought to the next meeting in April which would cover the suggested process and an appendix on NICE RTI guidance as an example.</p>	
7	<p><b>Plans for implementation of Hospital Antibiotic Review Programme</b></p> <p>JS reported the new resource has been finalised and waiting for upload to the Turas platform. The resource is primarily designed to be used in a facilitated learning session and implementation will be supported by Ayo's work on behaviour change of healthcare professionals. Will be shared with AMTs who will be asked to consider how to implement this locally and feedback to SAPG. Aim is to be fairly flexible and for the AMTs to decide what their priorities are. Ayo will support this work via case studies in four Health Boards to help them embed this resource. RR queried if there had been research proposals. JS confirmed that this is part of Prof Kay Currie's research programme on stewardship. RR indicated in terms of the actual resources, Linsey Milroy had been closely involved and would provide a brief update. LM advised HARP comprises two short introductory videos, two PowerPoint slide set presentations, a support pack for facilitators, and a toolkit to support behaviour change. The proposed launch date is the end of February 2020 but this will be confirmed. JS advised that there is an expectation for each AMT to produce a local concise implementation plan using a template. Templates are also being developed for AMTs to report on progress and SD is looking at an online platform to for these to facilitate information sharing. The Chair questioned whether it would be appropriate to agree a minimum number of wards or leave to the discretion of AMTs. Group agreed one per Board and the Chair suggested larger Boards should aspire to aim for more.</p> <p><b>Action: Communication to AMTs about launch of HARP and expectations regarding implementation</b></p>	JS
8	<p><b>Local surveillance of antimicrobial use framework – review of content</b></p> <p>WM reported this is a framework which SAPG has had since its inception and is due for an update. The importance of following the SAPG recommendations for local surveillance was recently highlighted in the Scottish Government letter to Chief Executives. JS &amp; WM have revised framework but changes are minor. Majority of data is now available in Discovery. Section on acute hospital use has been amended to give greater flexibility for AMTs to target surveillance to address local priorities. The use of different denominators was raised WM advised population based dominator used in Discovery in line with all national records in Scotland. Noted that national target for reduction in antibiotic use is also population based. The Chair highlighted that in Discovery there is not the same granularity as in PIS and HMUD. WM advised this is work in progress and plan is for data to be made available at hospital and HSCP level. YG asked if antifungals would be added. WM suggested this could</p>	

	<p>be added but as antifungal use is very small compared to antibacterial use not a current priority. The group were broadly supportive of framework. The new version will be uploaded onto SAPG website.</p> <p><b>Action: Upload new surveillance framework to SAPG website</b></p>	JS/MP
9	<p><b>Antifungal stewardship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Good Practice Recommendations (GPRs) for Antifungal Stewardship in Haemato-oncology</b></li> </ul> <p>JS reported the draft GPRs have been produced largely by Brian Jones and Laura Cottom from GGC. The aim is primarily to assist AMTs to engage with H-O teams and other front line clinicians. Chair acknowledged the GPRs required more work to improve clarity and will be formatted as a list of key points. There is opportunity to make changes and the Chair asked members to submit any comments. The final version will be signed off at the April meeting. YG asked if there would be recommendations on point prevalence survey of antifungal use and if there was a template. JS advised the plan would be to host some tools on the SAPG website for local audit in high use areas.</p> <p><b>Action: Comments on GPRs to be sent to MP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Good Practice Recommendations for Use of Antifungals in Chronic Respiratory Conditions</b></li> </ul> <p>Chair advised this is close to final version and includes more detail than the H-O one. Authored largely by Dr David Connell, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, NHS Tayside, who has recently been appointed Chair of British Society Thoracic Pulmonary Infection Advisory Group. He is also piloting a regional specialist group to discuss complex cases so will be able to access a wider network of people. Not a definitive guide to managing these conditions but highlights key stewardship elements. Comment received from NHS Highland for inclusion of recommendation that GPs should not prescribe an antifungal based on a single sputum culture but should seek specialist advice. MMAcL is currently leading work on standardising sputum isolates and agreed to provide some text around this. AT highlighted in Appendix 1 specific brands of inhalers are mentioned but due to cost and availability not all Boards will have the same inhalers. It was agreed to change this to generic inhalers. DO also highlighted in key recommendations that GPs may be unable to arrange some of suggested tests. Agreed that specialists should coordinate any monitoring requirements. YG advised the serum level ranges used vary between the different labs. Agreed to note this and requirement to use guidance from specific lab used.</p> <p><b>Action: Make suggested amendments and additions and take back to project group</b></p>	All
	<b>Items for Update</b>	
10	<p><b>Updates from UK and NHS Scotland Antimicrobial Prescribing, Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection group meetings (APRHAI, SARHAI, SOHNAP)</b></p> <p>WM reported no meetings have taken place recently. Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance Report' (SONAAR) group met for a second time in December. SAPG are represented through Chair and JS. Meet three times a year. At December 2019 meeting centred around agreeing measurable and deliverables to the UK Project Delivery group.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Antibiotic use measures in NSS Discovery</b></p> <p>WM advised that last month new measures had been added to Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) dashboard for primary and secondary care to enable progress to reduce overall antimicrobial use by 15% as per Scottish Government. New measure for proportion of antibiotics in acute hospitals will be expressed as DDD per 1,000 bed days and measure of IV in secondary care by population based denominator. Enables AMTs to get visibility on Board level performance. For hospital measures, aiming to have data at hospital level and for Primary care at HSCP level. WM asked for any further suggestions to improve usefulness of data. Agreed that would be useful to add a 'target' line to make it easier to track progress. WM suggested proportion of 5-day antibiotic courses for</p>	

	<p>key respiratory antibiotics could be added and this was supported. WM noted there is limited capacity for development work within the team so need to prioritise. RW queried if any AMTs are looking at antimicrobial resistance. MMacL suggested that most AMTs should be but Discovery have limited data on platform. JW acknowledged there is currently a limited data set but agreed to discuss with WM and bring information back to meeting in April re drug-bug combination data.</p> <p><b>Action: Update on additional AMR data in Discovery</b></p>	WM/JW
12	<p><b>European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2019 and Citizens' Panel survey</b></p> <p>JS has been in contact with Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacists to gather feedback on EAAD activities via a survey. Closing date is 21 February. Will collate feedback on local activities and evaluate if the new campaign materials were useful.</p> <p>JS and LC also working with Scottish Health Council on a Citizens' Panel Survey on public knowledge and behaviours around antibiotic use and AMR awareness. Last update, indicated 500 members of this panel had responded. Panel provides a demographic representation of Scotland and has approximately 1100 members. The report will be shared when available and will inform SAPG's EAAD campaign for 2020.</p>	
13	<p><b>Update on workforce development and education sub-group</b></p> <p>RR reported they held their first meeting in January which had multidisciplinary and multi-agency representation – 18 people attended. Key points were agreed and notes will be shared.</p> <p><b>Action Share notes of Education sub-group with SAPG</b></p> <p>RR encouraged attendance at the "Optimal infection prevention and control (IPC) workforce in NHS Scotland - Current and future opportunities and challenges" on 19 March 2020. If interested, please email Marion.</p> <p><b>Action: Contact MP if interested in attending IPC event</b></p> <p>LM has been updating SCRAP modules with JS and these will be launched soon as version 3. First two modules have been combined, general background about AMR and patient expectations, and four modules on UTI. Migrated on Turas system instead of NES website. JMCE highlighted some Health Boards only use Turas for appraisals. JS agreed to clarify which systems Health Boards use.</p> <p><b>Action: Collect information from AMTs about use of Turas</b></p>	RR  All  JS/MP
14	<p><b>Update from stewardship groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Association of Scottish Antimicrobial Pharmacists (ASAP)</b> In AC's absence, YG advised the next meeting will be 02 March 2020 and will include discussion of national approach on discharge antibiotics and TTOs. Other topics include how to achieve prescribing indicators and plan to nominate a pharmacist to represent the group at SMVN Diagnostics meetings.</li> <li>• <b>Scottish Antimicrobial Nurses Group (SANG)</b> JMCE reported next meeting 03 March 2020. Collaboration with NES to seek feedback from Nursing Schools on MS content in undergraduate curricula. Jodie Allan will be joining group travelling to Ghana on 23 February and will be looking at the nursing perspective. The first text book on this topic, "Antimicrobial Stewardship for Nursing Practice" was published last month. Two of the chapters were by Scottish authors; JMCE and NH. If you anyone is interested in purchasing this please contact JMCE who can secure a 20% discount. Chair of SANG, will be attending IPC meeting on 19 March.</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b>Update on improvement projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Penicillin allergy de-labelling</b> This continues, pilot has been extended. Fife has come on board and they have commenced penicillin de-labelling. The algorithm and FAQs have had some final minor changes/modifications. Due to meet on 07 May and will have tangible outputs to share with SAPG soon. Next step will be to consider national implementation of these outputs. Require GP input and MP will send dates to GH and DO'D.</li> <li>• <b>Paediatric stewardship</b></li> </ul>	

	<p>Group met on 14 February 2020. Lothian and Glasgow have shared and discussed their hospital empirical guidelines to inform a national consensus guideline with antibiotic choice options. Plan to develop a survey to AMTs to seek information about local paediatric engagement and activities for stewardship. This will facilitate development of support for AMTs and utilize expertise from the main centres for a standardised approach. SCRAP UTI module version 3 includes a new module on UTI in children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dental stewardship</b></li> </ul> <p>Last meeting was held on 13 December 2019. Discussed at length promotion of Penicillin V rather than Amoxicillin first line for dental infections and views fed back to SDCEP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>End of life antibiotics</b></li> </ul> <p>Meeting regularly with good attendance. National survey preliminary analysis is complete and will inform Good Practice Recommendation. Systematic review is also near to completion on the evidence for use of antibiotics towards the end of life. The next step will be to share the outputs and engage specialties across all sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fleming Fund Ghana</b></li> </ul> <p>Final visit 23 - 27 February 2020. JS, JA, FK, AC accompanied by two health psychologists from University of Manchester. Will follow up on improvement work; one hospital on management of pneumonia, and other developing surgical prophylaxis. Also following up on behaviour change, cascade of training and second PPS. Project finishes officially at end of March but will continue to support Ghana work virtually.</p>	
16	<p><b>Antimicrobial Management Team network event 19 May</b></p> <p>Some provisional ideas for that meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HARP programme to allow people to share local implementation</li> <li>• End of Life Good Practice Recommendation and case studies</li> <li>• Update on Citizens Panel survey and evaluation of Keep Antibiotic Working Campaign in Scotland</li> <li>• AMTs sharing good practice</li> </ul>	
17	<p><b>Antibiotic Shortages</b></p> <p>JS &amp; WM joined Department of Health call around antibiotic supply. Due to COVID-19 the MHRA are investigating products and raw materials from China requesting impact assessment from pharmaceutical companies for short and long term. Chair asked about impact of Brexit. WM indicated short term measures for 'no deal' have been mainly stood down. Continued work with companies to ensure no major problems.</p>	
18	<p><b>SMC advice on antimicrobials</b></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
	<p><b>Items for Information</b></p> <p>MMacL informed the group she is now Chair of SMVN AMR Diagnostics group. Currently discussing changes to antibiotic dosing and break points. Keen to have SAPG representation on the group for stewardship. Suggested a pharmacist and an ID consultant. YG agreed to discuss at ASAP. Chair suggested having a separate diagnostic stewardship group. MMacL uncertain about this but agreed to take back to SMVN. Agreed helpful to Include an overview of diagnostic stewardship at May event.</p> <p><b>Action: Anyone interested in representing SAPG on AMR Diagnostics group to contact MP</b></p>	All
19	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>An optimal infection prevention and control workforce in NHS Scotland - Current and future opportunities and challenges on 19 March 2020. Covered under item 13.</p>	
22.	<p><b>Date of next meeting – Thursday 30 April 2020</b></p> <p>Following meeting 16 June 2020</p>	