

Meeting Notes

Cross-Party Group: Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions

Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Committee Room 3

5.30pm-7.30pm

Convenor: Brian Whittle MSP

1. Convenor Brian Whittle MSP welcomed all members and invited guests to the meeting including Dorothy-Grace Elder, Secretary of the Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain
2. Apologies from MSP members, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Pauline McNeil MSP
3. Minutes of 12 September Meeting – approved
4. Matters arising/Secretary's update:
 - To note that the Annual Return has been prepared as required by the Scottish Parliament, signed by the Convenor, and is publically available via the CPG web page
 - Proposed new members:
 - Dr Martin Dunbar, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde - approved
 - Tanya Rhodes, Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine (FSEM) UK - approved
 - Thank you to those members who completed the Continuing Membership and Data Protection Act paperwork
 - Recent SPQs included:
 - Question S5W-19003: Brian Whittle, South Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 24/09/2018: *To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-14416 by Shona Robison on 22 February 2018, and the subsequent commitment in its Programme for Government, when it will publish a national falls and fracture prevention strategy?*
Answered by Jeanne Freeman (11/10/2018): *The Scottish Government's National Falls and Fracture Prevention strategy is due to be published by the end of March 2019.*
 - Question S5F-02759: Brian Whittle, South Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged:5/11/2018: *To ask the Minister, in light of the study "Defying Arthritis at Every Age", what the Scottish Government is doing to reduce loneliness and isolation among people with the condition?*
To be taken in chamber on 8/11/2018
 - Recent publications circulated to Group members:
 - Broken Bones, Broken Lives* - International Osteoporosis Foundation
 - State of Play* - British Society of Rheumatology
 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing Matters* National(UK) Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
 - Defying Arthritis at Every Age* - Versus Arthritis
 - Paediatrics possible debate - per 12/9 meeting notes, any progress? Convenor replied that it is still on the waiting list for Members' business debate
 - The National Osteoporosis Society recently organised an event at the Scottish Parliament sponsored by our Convenor and which was attended by Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Public Health, Sport and WellBeing
5. *Effective use of Biological Drugs in Scotland* - presentation circulated
Dr Martin Perry, Consultant Rheumatologist and Physician, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Nine of the top 20 medicines by value in secondary care are biological medicines
Total spend on these biologicals was greater than £100 million in 2015/16

Many of these medicines will lose patent protection over the next five years and may face competition from biosimilars

Scottish Medicines Consortium(SMC)believes that the managed introduction of biosimilar medicines into clinical practice in NHS Scotland is desirable with considerable cost savings to be made

Dr Perry referred to *Biosimilar Medicines: a National Prescribing Framework* (Healthcare Improvement Scotland March 2018)

The prescribing framework contains prescribing principles 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 NHS Scotland
- support National Procurement
- recognise the potential savings that can be achievable within NHS Scotland by the use of biosimilar medicines
- provide guidance on implementing the use of biosimilar medicines
- complement the existing NHS boards' governance processes for the managed introduction of new medicines
- align with the ambitions of the NHS Scotland Healthcare Quality Strategy which aims to ensure that everyone will benefit from the most appropriate treatments, interventions, support and services at the right time with no harmful variation

The prescribing framework may be reviewed as clinical experience with the use of biosimilar medicines evolves

There were some concerns from Group members around being changed over from medications which managed their conditions effectively to others

Comments included:

- What about outcomes and patient satisfaction - do we have data yet?
- Are our patients getting better in one part of the country compared to another? Can differences be measured?
- OK to switch to biosimilar but without loss of benefit
- Can differences be measured?

Dr Perry responded that it has been recognized that medication changes have to be made in partnership with each patient and their clinician –and robust data recorded

Dr Perry concluded -with some points to be considered:

- What progress is being made to address the *impasse* with community pharmacy over high cost drugs?
- Medical recruitment
- Progress on national clinical records with dual access and app development
- Use fraction of biosimilar savings as 'partnership fund'- comment was made how this appears to be a recurring point in the various previous presentations to the Group over the past year-cost savings not benefitting the service making them

6. *“Don’t Delay - Connect Today”*

Dr Louise Bennet, Director of Rheumatosphere, University of Glasgow

Dr Bennet described the campaign in the Western Isles by the Glasgow University team – part of the larger campaign by the European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) – raising awareness of rheumatoid arthritis and importance of early diagnosis. This was also a fundraising effort with proceeds going to the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society - the (NRAS) campaign was mentioned briefly at an earlier meeting by John Paton (NRAS Ambassador for Scotland) - presentation circulated

7. Any other business, 6.45pm

- *An update from Versus Arthritis*

Alan McGinley, Policy and Engagement Manager, Versus Arthritis

A busy year for the newly merged charities

A public health approach essential

Please support the Versus Arthritis Campaign - Defying Arthritis

- *Rheumatology in Scotland: The State of Play – A Report from the British Society for Rheumatology and Scottish Society for Rheumatology*

Lauren Bennie, Devolved Nations Liaison Officer for the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR)

Lauren Bennie has recently joined the Group - this is a new post for BSR (presentation and *State of Play Report* circulated by e mail)

8. 2019 Meetings Programme – Group Discussion

- Discussion paper had been circulated pre-meeting to all members

It was agreed that our CPG is one of only a few current opportunities for the ‘Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions community’ in Scotland to meet around a broadly generic agenda

- Comments included:

The Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Community in Scotland needs to be “making a noise”

Joint meetings with other CPGs suggested on issues of common interest such as Chronic Pain, Health Inequalities, Disability could be developed

Secretary will develop 2019 meetings programme to reflect the proposed activity

- Meeting Dates are:

Wednesday 13 March

Wednesday 15 May

Wednesday 11 September

Wednesday 6 November

- 15 May 6-8pm is currently available for our Garden Lobby Event at the Parliament. Group members were reminded that member organisations will be required to consider funds to cover hospitality costs for this proposed event as Cross Party Groups have no funding. Please consider if able to contribute and to inform secretary as soon as possible of maximum amount each able to pledge. Meantime Group secretary will submit proposal to Event Team for consideration/confirmation -with Brian Whittle MSP as event sponsor

9. Summary and Close

Convenor thanked speakers for their contributions and also the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society for covering costs of refreshments on this occasion

Attendance List

MSP

Alasdair Allan MSP
Rhoda Grant MSP Deputy Convenor
Rachael Hamilton MSP
Brian Whittle MSP Convenor

NON-MSP

Lauren Bennie	British Society of Rheumatology
Louise Bennet	University of Glasgow
Jackie Berg	Osteoporosis service/NHS Lothian
Tracy Bowden	Pfizer
Murray Brown	NASS Edinburgh
Fay Campbell	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Jo Craig	Scottish Parliament
Dorothy Grace Elder	Secretary, CPG Chronic Pain
Mayrine Fraser	National Osteoporosis Society
David Gleghorn	UCB Pharma
Professor Colin Howie	University of Edinburgh/NHS Lothian
Dr Sean Kerrigan	University of Glasgow
Joan Kerr	Individual member
Kenryck Lloyd-Jones	Chartered Society of Physiotherapists Scotland
Katrina Lowndes	Novartis
Sharon Douglas	Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children
Eddie McGill	National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society
Gail Grant	ABVIE
Iain Macdonald	National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society
Sheila Macleod	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
Maureen McAllister	Versus Arthritis Scotland
Alan McGinlay	Versus Arthritis Scotland
Jane McNeil	Medac Pharma
Lorna Neil	Polymyalgia-Rheumatica-Giant Cell Arteritis Scotland
James O' Malley	Versus Arthritis
John Paton	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
Dr Martin Perry	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Claudia Rupert	UCB Pharma
Tanya Rhodes	Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine
Dr Stefan Siebert	University of Glasgow
Jenny Snell	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
Margaret Smith	Queen Margaret University
Anne Simpson	Group secretary

APOLOGIES

Pauline McNeil MSP	
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP	
Heather Ann Baxter	
Jill Carnevale	NHS Lothian
Dr Martin Dunbar	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Janice Johnson	
FMA UK	
Maree Morrison	
Dr Ruth Richmond	NHS Borders
Jamie Rice	Novartis
Dr Elizabeth Murphy	NHS Lanarkshire
Dr Rosemary Hollick	University of Aberdeen
Lynn Laidlaw	
Sheila Terry	NRAS
Paulo Quadros	INTLIFE