

Camden Medicines Management Committee (CMMC) report for the Camden Patient and Public Engagement Group (CPPEG) operational meeting

11 March 2019

Chair of committee	Dr Philip Taylor
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CPPEG representative	Ivy Johnson
Report summary	This report presents a brief summary of the Camden Medicines Management Committee (CMMC) meeting held on 06 February 2019
Strategic objectives of committee	The strategic objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission the delivery of NHS constitutional rights and pledges • Improve health outcomes, address inequalities and achieve parity of esteem • Integrate and enable local services to deliver the right care in the right setting
Recommendation	CPPEG Members are asked to note the report.

Items of business discussed

- Camden prescribing budget position report 2018/19 – month 8
- Camden CCG medicines management & prescribing budgets 2019/20
- Quality Innovation Productivity Performance (QIPP) - Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS) 2019/20 plan
- NHS England - Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: an update and a consultation on further guidance for CCGs
- NHS England - Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care – implementation of recommendations
- Camden prescribing recommendations and pathways
- Camden CCG antibiotic prescribing – quality premium update for quarter 2 - 2018/19
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance
- Central Alerting System (CAS) - alerts summary
- Drug safety update (DSU): Emollients — new information about risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients

Discussions and decisions made

- The Committee reviewed the month 8 prescribing budget position report, which shows the projected spend to date against the primary care prescribing budget for 2018/19 and illustrates monthly change in total actual prescribing spend. The Medicines Management Team is continuing to monitor and report on the cost pressures affecting the prescribing budget, which include unexpected rises in drug costs. The medicines management & prescribing budgets report for 2019/20 was also reviewed by the CMMC.
- The Committee considered and approved refinements and additional details to the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) - Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS) plan for 2019/20. Guidance documents to accompany individual markers in the plan will be presented at forthcoming CMMC meetings.

- The Committee discussed and approved updates to Camden prescribing recommendations and to a clinical pathway, in line with, for example, North Central London guidelines, Public Health England, NICE guidance and clinical knowledge summaries (CKS), and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) updates. All the prescribing updates were assessed by the Committee with regards to quality, safety, clinical effectiveness, cost efficiency and evidence base, in order to manage clinical variation and financial risk.
- The Committee discussed the NHS England consultation to update the list items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. The Head of Medicines Management and the Chair of the CMMC recently attended the CPPEG operational meeting on 14th January 2019 to discuss the consultation. CPPEG members were encouraged to feedback on the consultation and discuss at patient participation groups. The consultation, is addressed to all CCGs, the public and patients, and any relevant interest group or body, and is open until 28 February 2019. Details are available on the NHS England website <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/items-routinely-prescribed-update/>
- The Committee also discussed the [NHS England guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#) which was published further to a consultation in 2018: The guidance is addressed to CCGs to support them to fulfil their duties around appropriate use of their resources, and NHS England expects CCGs to take the guidance into account. The guidance proposes reducing prescribing of over-the-counter medicines for 35 minor, short-term health concerns which are defined as:
 - ✓ A **self-limiting** condition does not require any medical advice or treatment as it will clear up on its own, such as sore throats, coughs, colds and viruses.
 - ✓ A minor illness that is **suitable for self-care** can be treated with items that can be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy. These conditions include, for example, indigestion, mouth ulcers and warts and verrucae.
 - ✓ The guidance also included recommendations for restricting the prescribing of probiotics and vitamins and minerals.
- The Committee was updated on the Camden CCG antibiotic prescribing – quality premium (QP) data. Quarter 2 (July – September 2018) data shows that currently Camden CCG is meeting the targets set for 2018/19. It was noted that Camden performs to a high standard in relation to antibiotic prescribing.
- NICE guidance and quality standards published or updated in December 2018 & January 2019 were considered by the Committee, including any local impact.
- The Committee noted the latest alerts published via the Department of Health (DH) Central Alerting System (CAS), and the actions required by those groups of health professionals receiving the alerts. The Committee’s attention was drawn to a drug safety update (DSU) for emollient skin moisturising products. The MHRA has issued [new information about risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients](#). The warning applies to all paraffin-based emollients regardless of paraffin concentration. Patients using these products are advised not to smoke or go near naked flames, and warned about the easy ignition of clothing, bedding, towels, bandages and dressings, and other fabric that have dried residue of an emollient product on them. Patients should be aware that washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it. Warnings, including an alert symbol, are being added to packaging to provide a visual reminder to patients and those caring for them about the fire hazard.

CPPEG representative’s comments (Ivy Johnson)

I have been impressed by the professionalism of the committee members and am reassured that they are patient sighted in all their decisions. I am also reassured by the work that Dr Taylor and Rachael Clark lead on in relation to NHS England consultations around prescription medicines.