



Briefing

The Role Of Medicines – Seeing The Whole Picture

- An evidence-based approach to tackling chronic disease, including the use of medicines, is fundamental to the success of *Designed for Life*.
- The effective use of modern medicines can play a cost-effective role in meeting healthcare needs in Wales.
- We need to look at all the costs and benefits of medicines, not just at the bill.

This briefing draws on a report published in November 2006 by the Office of Health Economics: "Health and Use of Medicines in the UK - a view of Wales". This report examines the current use of medicines in Wales compared with the rest of the UK.

Tackling chronic conditions – medicines have key role

Chronic conditions – such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and lung diseases – have been called “the 21st century healthcare challenge”.

Wales has one of the highest levels of chronic conditions in the UK, with around one-third of adults reporting at least one condition. There are two main reasons for this; the legacy of our industrial past, with very high levels of lung diseases for instance; and the ageing population. Chronic conditions are most prevalent in older people, and Wales has the highest percentage of over 65s in Britain. Demographic change will mean more people with chronic conditions, putting further pressure on healthcare costs in Wales.

- Respiratory illness alone accounts for 28.5% of Welsh patient visits to their GP.
- Chronic conditions are estimated to account for up to 80% of all GP consultations and 60% of hospital bed days.

Against this backdrop, it is right that *Designed for Life* requires a remodelled approach to long-term conditions based on chronic disease management.

Medicines have a key role to play in managing chronic conditions, improving the quality of life for patients. NICE technology appraisal guidance demonstrates the role of modern medicines in a range of

chronic diseases, including:

- Rheumatoid Arthritis (etanercept and infliximab)
- Schizophrenia (atypical antipsychotics)
- Type 2 Diabetes (glitazones)
- Epilepsy in children (newer drugs)
- Statins for the prevention of cardiovascular events

Evidence from the US also shows that medicines management is central to tackling chronic conditions. Leading US healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente is noted for example for its pharmacy call centres, which help ensure that patients get the support they need to get maximum benefit from their medicines.

Medicines – focus on the whole picture, not just the bill

The cost of medicines and new drugs is very much in the public eye at present.

Medicines expenditure as a proportion of total NHS expenditure is slightly higher in Wales than England and Scotland. But across the UK this proportion has fallen in recent years as the overall NHS budget has risen faster than the medicines bill. Figures from the Office of Health Economics show that between 1999 and 2004, overall government spending on the NHS in Wales rose by 40%, with staff costs rising around 35% and real medicines spend increasing by 26%.

As elsewhere in the UK, this increase in Wales has been driven largely by an increase in the volume of prescribing of relatively low-cost medicines. When it comes to new medicines, the level of prescribing in the UK is low compared with other industrialised nations. In Wales the uptake is marginally higher than for the UK as a whole.

It is crucial that NHS funding is being spent wisely and effectively. But what is equally important is the evidence which is used to make these judgments. In the case of medicines it is essential not to view expenditure in isolation, but to consider the overall impact of the technology on the health care system, taking into account factors such as improvements in patient outcomes or savings from the wider NHS budget. In short, when it comes to assessing the pros and cons of medicines, we need to look at the whole picture, not just at the bill.



Case Studies:

Atypical Antipsychotics:

While an increase in the medicines bill is expected there are likely to be overall cost savings as inpatient stays are reduced. Given that hospital beds are the most expensive part of the healthcare system, at around £2000 a week, there is potential for significant savings at the same time as improved patient care.

Diabetes:

Around 9% of NHS expenditure can be attributed to diabetes. Improvements in disease control can lead to savings in the cost of insulin, improved outcomes, slowed deterioration and reduced overall costs. One estimate is that better management of Type 2 diabetes could have saved up to 33,000 bed days in Wales in 2005.

Coronary Heart Disease:

Tackling CHD effectively means investing in areas such as health promotion and smoking cessation, which are good for patients and highly cost-effective. But medicines also have a role to play, especially statins, which lead to reductions in angina, stroke and heart attacks. Figures for England for 2005 show that £730 million was spent on statins, but that this saved an estimated 9,700 lives. In Wales, research by NERA estimates that over 5 years, statins have saved 3000 lives, and 112,000 bed days.

Conclusion:

An evidence-based approach to tackling chronic disease, including the use of new and established medicines, is key to reducing hospital admissions and improving health outcomes. In assessing the pros and cons of medicines, as in much else, we need to ensure that we focus on the whole picture.

"The OHE report demonstrates how new, innovative medicines may offer; good value for money, better disease management as well as economic benefits due to a reduction in in-patient hospital stays and associated social costs. Wales currently has a pattern of high prescribing of low cost, older medicines. We believe the report illustrates the need for a comprehensive review of the use of medicines in Wales, to ensure optimum use is made of prescribing budgets."

Dr. Rick Greville, Director, ABPI Cymru Wales

"The use and management of modern medicines, the active involvement of pharmacists in working with patients and the part pharmaceuticals play in helping in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients, are all crucially important to achieving the so called 'modernisation dividend' and the overall improvement of the health and well-being of the people of Wales."

Mike Ponton, Director, Welsh NHS Confederation

To obtain a copy of the Office of Health Economics report, contact the ABPI Cymru Wales on 02920 454297 or wales@abpi.org.uk

About ABPI

The ABPI is the trade association for companies in the UK involved in the research, development, manufacture and supply of medicines prescribed through the NHS. The Wales Industry Group is a coalition of ABPI members. Its role is to increase understanding of the pharmaceutical industry, engage in dialogue and work in partnership to improve health and well-being. For details contact wales@abpi.org.uk

About The Welsh NHS Confederation

The Welsh NHS Confederation represents the organisations making up the NHS in Wales. All trusts and local health boards are members. It is part of the UK-wide NHS Confederation. For information go to www.welshconfed.org

Further Information:

CHD and Diabetes in Wales: Meeting the Challenges, NERA/ABPI, December 2006
From the Rockies to the Rhondda, Welsh NHS Confederation.

www.welshconfed.org/Health2015/FromtheRockiestotheRhondda.html

Chronic conditions – delivering the double benefit, Welsh NHS Confederation.

www.welshconfed.org/reso/1776/image/Chronic%20Conditions%20E.pdf

Astudiaethau Achos:

Gwrth-seicotig Annodwediadol:

Er y disgylir cynydd yn y bil meddyginaethau, mae'n debygol y bydd arbedion cost cyffredinol fel y gostyngir arosiadau cleifion mewn ysbyty. O gofio mai gwelyau ysbyty yw rhan ddrutaf y system gofal iechyd, ar tua £2000 yr wythnos, mae potensial am arbedion sylweddol ar yr un pryd â gwell gofal cleifion.

Diabetes:

Medrir priodoli tua 9% o wariant y GIG i ddiabetes. Gall gwelliannau mewn rheoli clefyd arwain at arbedion yng nghost inswliau, gwella canlyniadau, arafu gwaethygiad a gostwng costau cyffredinol. Un amcangyfrif yw y medrai gwell rheolaeth o ddiabetes Math 2 fod wedi arbed hyd at 33,000 o ddyddiau gwely ysbyty yng Nghymru yn 2005.

Clefyd Coronaidd y Galon:

Mae mynd i'r afael yn effeithlon â chlefyd coronaidd y galon yn golygu buddsoddi mewn meysydd megis hybu iechyd ac atal ysmgyu, sy'n dda i gleifion ac sy'n gost-effeithlon iawn. Ond mae gan feddyginaethau hefyd rôl i'w chwarae, yn arbennig statinau, sy'n arwain at ostyngiadau mewn angina, strôc a thrawiadau ar y galon. Dengys ffigurau ar gyfer Lloegr ar gyfer 2005 y gwariwyd £730 miliwn ar statinau, ond amcangyfrifir i hynny arbed 9,700 o fywydau. Yng Nghymru, mae ymchwil gan NERA yn amcangyfrif fod statinau wedi arbed 3,000 o fywydau a 112,000 o ddyddiau gwely dros 5 mlynedd.

Casgliad:

Mae ymagwedd seiliedig ar dystiolaeth at fynd i'r afael â chlefyd croniog, yn cynnwys defnyddio meddyginaethau newydd a meddyginaethau sydd wedi sefydlu eu hunain, yn allweddol i ostwng derbyniadau ysbyty a gwella canlyniadau iechyd. Wrth asesu manteision ac anfanteision meddyginaethau, fel mewn llawer o bethau eraill, mae angen i ni fod yn sicr ein bod yn canolbwytio ar y darlun cyfan:

"Mae adroddiad OHE yn dangos sut y gall meddyginaethau newydd a blaengar gynnig gwerth da am arian, gwell rheolaeth clefyd yn ogystal â buddion economaidd oherwydd gostyngiad mewn arosiadau cleifion mewn ysbyty a chostau cymdeithasol cysylltiedig. Mae gan Gymru ar hyn o bryd batrwm o lawer o ragnodi ar feddyginaethau hyn, cost isel. Credwn fod yr adroddiad yn dangos yr angen am adolygiad cynhwysfawr o ddefnydd meddyginaethau yng Nghymru er mwyn sicrhau y gwneir y defnydd gorau oll o gyllidebau rhagnodi."

Dr. Rick Greville, Cyfarwyddwr, ABPI Cymru

"Mae defnydd a rheolaeth meddyginaethau modern, ymgynfraniad gweithgar fferyllwyr wrth weithio gyda chleifion a rhan deunydd fferyllol wrth drin ac adfer cleifion, oll yn hollbwysig i gyflawni'r hyn a elwir yn 'ddifidend moderneiddio' a gwelliant cyffredinol yn iechyd a lles pobl Cymru."

Mike Ponton, Confederaliwn GIG Cymru

I gael copi o adroddiad y Swyddfa Economeg Iechyd, cysylltwch â ABPI Cymru ar 02920 454297 neu wales@abpi.org.uk.

Am ABPI

ABPI yw cymdeithas fasnach cwmnïau yn y DU sy'n ymwneud ag ymchwil, datblygu gweithgynhyrchu a chyflenwi meddyginaethau a ragnodir drwy'r GIG. Mae Grwp Diwydiant Cymru yn gynghrair o aelodau ABPI. Ei rôl yw cynyddu dealtwriaeth o'r diwydiant fferyllol, cymryd rhan mewn dialog a gweithio mewn partneriaeth i wella iechyd a lles. I gael manylion cysyllter â wales@abpi.org.uk

Am Confederaliwn GIG Cymru

Mae Confederaliwn GIG Cymru yn cynrychioli'r sefydliadau sy'n rhan o'r GIG yng Nghymru. Mae pob ymddiriedolaeth iechyd a bwrdd iechyd lleol yn aelodau. Mae'n rhan o Gonffederaliwn GIG y Deyrnas Unedig. I gael gwybodaeth bellach gweler www.welshconfed.org.

Gwybodaeth Bellach:

CHD and Diabetes in Wales: Meeting the Challenges, NERA/ABPI, Rhagfyr 2006

O'r Rockies I'r Rhondda, Confederaliwn GIG Cymru.

www.welshconfed.org/reso/1776/image/Rockies%20to%20Rhondda%20summary%20Welsh.PDF

Mynd i'r afael a chyflyrau croniog: cyflenwi budd deublyg, Confederaliwn GIG Cymru

www.welshconfed.org/reso/1776/image/Chronic%20Conditions%20W.pdf



Briffiad

Rôl Meddyginaethau – Gweld y Darlun Cyflawn

- Mae ymagwedd seiliedig ar dystiolaeth at fynd i'r afael â chlefydau cronig, yn cynnwys defnyddio meddyginaethau, yn sylfaenol i lwyddiant *Cynllun Oes*.
- Gall defnydd effeithlon o feddyginaethau modern fod â rôl effeithlon wrth ateb anghenion gofal iechyd Cymru.
- Mae angen i ni edrych ar holl gostau a buddion meddyginaethau, nid dim ond ar y gost.

Mae'r ddogfen hon yn seiliedig ar adroddiad gan y Swyddfa Economeg lechyd a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Tachwedd 2006 "Lechyd a'r Defnydd o Feddyginaethau yn y DU: golwg o Gymru". Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn archwilio defnydd presennol meddyginaethau yng Nghymru o gymharu gyda gweddill y DU.

Mynd i'r afael â chyflyrau cronig – meddyginaethau â rôl allweddol

Galwyd cyflyrau cronig – megis asthma, diabetes, clefyd y galon a chlefydau'r ysgyfaint yn "her gofal iechyd y 21ain ganrif".

Mae gan Gymru un o'r lefelau uchaf o gyflyrau cronig yn y Deyrnas Unedig, gyda thraean o oedotion yn dweud fod ganddynt o leiaf un cyflwr. Mae dau brif reswm am hyn; etifeddiaeth ein hanes diwydiannol, gyda lefelau uchel iawn o afiechydon yr ysgyfaint er enghraift; a phoblogaeth sy'n heneiddio. Mae cyflyrau cronig yn digwydd amlaf mewn pobl hyn, a Chymru sydd â'r ganran uchaf o bobl dros 65 oed ym Mhrydain. Bydd newid demograffig yn golygu y bydd mwy o bobl gyda chyflyrau cronig yn dodi pwysau pellach ar gostau gofal iechyd yng Nghymru.

- Mae afiechyd anadol yn cyfrif am 28.5% o ymweliadau cleifion yng Nghymru at eu meddyg teulu.
- Amcangyfrifir fod cyflyrau cronig yn cyfrif am hyd at 80% o holl ymgynghoriadau gyda meddygon teulu a 60% o ddyddiau gwely mewn ysbytai.

Yn y sefyllfa hon, mae *Cynllun Oes* yn galw am ymagwedd newydd at gyflyrau tymor hir yn seiliedig ar reolaeth afiechyd cronig.

Mae gan feddyginaethau rôl allweddol i'w chwarae wrth reoli cyflyrau cronig, gan wella ansawdd bywyd i gleifion. Dengys canllawiau gwerthuso technoleg NICE rôl meddyginaethau modern

mewn amrediad o afiechydon cronig, yn cynnwys:

- Arthritis gwynegol (etanercept a infliximab)
- Sgitsoffrenia (gwrrth-seicotig annodweddiadol)
- Diabetes Math 2 (glitazones)
- Epilepsi mewn plant (cyffuriau mwy newydd)
- Statinau ar gyfer atal digwyddiadau cardiofasgwlaidd

Dengys dystiolaeth o'r Unol Daleithiau fod rheolaeth meddyginaethau yn ganolog wrth fynd i'r afael â chyflyrau cronig. Mae Kaiser Permanente, darparwyd gofal iechyd blaenllaw yn yr Unol Daleithiau, yn adnabyddus am eu canolfannau galw fferyllfa sy'n sicrhau fod cleifion yn cael y gefnogaeth maent ei angen i gael y budd mwyaf o'u meddyginaethau.

Meddyginaethau – ffocws ar y darlun cyfan, nid dim ond y gost

Mae cost meddyginaethau a chyffuriau newydd yn flaenllaw iawn yn llygad y cyhoedd ar hyn o bryd.

Mae gwariant ar feddyginaethau fel cyfran o gyfanswm gwariant y GIG ychydig yn uwch yng Nghymru nag yn Lloegr a'r Alban. Ond mae'r gyfran ar draws y DU wedi gostwng mewn blynnyddoedd diweddar wrth i gyllideb gynhwysfawr y GIG godi'n gyflymach na'r bil meddyginaethau. Dengys ffigurau o'r Swyddfa Economeg lechyd i gyfanswm gwariant y llywodraeth ar y GIG yng Nghymru godi gan 40% rhwng 1999 a 2004, gyda chostau staff yn cynyddu gan tua 35% a'r gwir wariant ar feddyginaethau yn codi gan 26%.

Fel mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU, cafodd y cynnydd hwn yng Nghymru ei achosi i raddau helaeth gan gynnydd mewn rhagnodi meddyginaethau cymharol cost isel. Pan ddaw i feddyginaethau newydd, mae lefel rhagnodi yn y DU yn isel o gymharu gyda chenhedloedd eraill sydd wedi'i diwydiannu. Mae'r defnydd ychydig yn uwch yng Nghymru nag ar gyfer y DU drwyddi draw.

Mae'n hollbwysig y defnyddir cyllid y GIG yn ddoeth ac yn effeithiol. Ond yr hyn sydd yr un mor bwysig yw'r dystiolaeth a ddefnyddir wrth benderfynu. Yn achos meddyginaethau mae'n hanfodol peidio gweld gwariant ar ei ben ei hunan, ond ystyrid effaith gyffredinol y dechnoleg ar y system gofal iechyd, gan roi ystyriaeth i ffactorau megis gwelliannau mewn carlyniadau cleifion neu gynilon o gyllideb ehangach y GIG. Yn gryno, pan ddaw'n fater o asesu manteision ac anfanteision meddyginaethau, mae angen i ni edrych ar y darlun cyfan, nid dim ond ar y gost.

