

NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group (TAG): High Cost Drugs Working Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aim

The aim of the NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group High Cost Drugs Working Group (HCDWG) is to develop recommendations to promote consistency in formulary management processes in public hospitals and equity of access to high cost drugs for patients in NSW hospitals.

Objectives

The objectives of the HCDWG are consistent with those of NSW TAG, specifically to:

- Support and influence DTC activities related to formulary management in NSW hospitals
- Facilitate collaborative monitoring of medicines use in NSW hospitals, particularly with regard to high cost medicines
- Facilitate evaluation of economic impacts of new medicines in NSW public hospitals
- Provide advice to NSW Health regarding policies related to high cost drugs access and relevant funding arrangements

Membership and Structure

Membership of the Group is open to interested representatives from TAG and TAGNet hospitals. Expert individuals may be co-opted to the Group at the discretion of the Executive Officer and Working Group Chairperson. The chairperson is elected annually from within the group and endorsed by the NSW TAG Management Committee.

Status and Relationships

The Group operates under the auspices of the NSW TAG and reports to the NSW TAG Management Committee. The Group has no executive power. It may collaborate with other groups or individuals on specific projects as considered appropriate by the Group. Meetings are held every 2 months, or as agreed by the Group. Draft minutes of meetings are circulated to Working Group members for review prior to approval. Confirmed minutes are posted in the Members section of the NSW TAG web site.

Activities and Strategies

1. Develop and test tools for managing, monitoring and evaluating the introduction of newly marketed drugs in hospitals
2. Make recommendations to hospitals, Area Health Services and Government regarding systems for assessing, monitoring and evaluating the economic impact of new high cost drugs
3. Liaise with Pharmaceutical Services Branch regarding funding arrangements for Highly Specialised Drugs used in public hospitals under Section 100 of the PBS
4. Liaise with the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce and State-wide Services regarding funding for medicine components for highly specialised health services
5. Make recommendations to NSW Health regarding funding arrangements for outpatient use of high cost drugs not funded by the Commonwealth
6. Review reports of aggregated drug utilisation for high cost drugs and make recommendations regarding priority areas for collaborative action
7. Provide evidence-based advice to NSW Health regarding state-wide procurement processes for high cost drugs

Approved: June 1st 2009