Drug and Therapeutics Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Committee

- To develop and implement policies and guidelines on the use of medicines in the trust.
- To evaluate new medicines and recommend approval, or otherwise, for their use in the trust.
- To monitor trends in drug expenditure and liaise with the trust executive.
- To liaise with local prescribing committees (Health Authorities and PCTs).
- To consider financial outcomes in primary and secondary care of decisions made.
- To commission, organise and approve clinical audit of medicines prescribed in the trust.
- To evaluate, promote and disseminate information on medicines for service users.
- To disseminate information on optimal medicines use to all relevant persons working in the trust.
- To oversee the work of local hospital or borough drug and therapeutics committees. (These committees are directly accountable to the trust committee.)
- To have strong links with the NICE Guidelines implementation committee and oversee implementation of medicine based TAGs.
Communication with other risk management groups/committees:

The Drugs and Therapeutics Committee is integral to the trust’s governance committee structure and will report into the Clinical Effectiveness Committee.

The Clinical Governance Committee will require:

1. Escalation reports of issues causing concern, or requiring wider consideration or decision.
2. Annual terms of reference review.
3. Annual review of Committee activity.

On issues of Clinical Risk the D&T Committee will escalate issues direct to the Clinical Risk Committee Meetings

- The committee will meet quarterly.
- The meeting will be quorate **when 8 members** are present.
- Minutes will be posted on the Drug and Therapeutics Committee trust intranet webpage.
- The committee will be serviced by the trust Chief Pharmacist.
- The committee chair will be by appointment, normally for a three year duration.

**Membership**

Chair: Dr Vivienne Curtis.

Secretary (trust Chief Pharmacist or deputy), Pharmacy representatives from Maudsley, Bethlem, Lambeth Hospital, Guy’s and St Thomas’, Lewisham and any service where the committee feels a pharmacy representative is helpful to the workings of the committee.

PCT representation (Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Croydon).

Consultant D&T representatives for each Directorate but including specific representation for Addictions.

Two Senior Lecturer representatives from the Institute of Psychiatry.

Places for two SpRs (ST4-6).

The committee may co-opt up to three members with special expertise or interest, or representing specific clinical services.
The Director of Nursing or nominated deputy.

The Medical Director.