Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 10th September 2026, 1-3pm
Teams

Name	Title	Organisation	Representing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Petra Brown (PeB) (Steve Buckley to deputise)	Chief Pharmacist	Pennine care NHS FT	GM Mental Health Organisations	No meeting	✓	✓	✓	SB	SB
David Hughes (DH)	Locality finance lead	NHS GM Integrated Care	ICB finance		A	AA	A	AA	AA
Kate Rigden (KR)	Director of Finance – Diagnostics and Pharmacy	Northern Care Alliance NHS FT	GM Provider Finance		✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Debbie Atkinson (DA)	Senior Clinical Lead Innovation	HiM	Health Innovation Manchester (HIM)		A	A	✓	A	A
Dr Vish Mehra (VM)	GP and Chief Medical Officer for HiM	HiM	HiM & GPs			A	A	✓	✓
Vacant Seat from Jul 26		NHSE	NHSE Specialised Commissioning		✓	✓			
Kathryn Whiteley (KW)	Chair CRG	GM ICB	GMMMG Clinical Reference Subgroup		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aneet Kapoor (AK)	Chair of the GM LPN	LPN	Pharmacy profession		✓	A	✓	A	A
Vacant seat			GM Secondary Care Clincians						
Peter Marks (PM)	LPC Board Member	GM LPC	Community Pharmacy		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faisal Bokhari (FB)	HOMM	GM ICB (T&G)	Locality MO leads		✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Luvjit Kandula (LK)	Chair – Community Pharmacy Provider Board (CPPB)	GM LPC	Community Pharmacy		✓	A	✓	A	✓
Lara Shah (LS)	Deputy Chief Pharmacist	GM ICB - Manchester	GMMMG Population health and inequalities subgroup		✓ (CF)	A	A (CF)	CF	CF
Vacant seat	Interim Deputy Director Strategy – Integrated Care	GM ICB – commissioning (TBC)	ICB Commissioning lead						
Kenny Li (KL)	Chief Pharmacist NHS GM	GM ICB	Chair		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Vacant seat from Sept 26	Regional Pharmacist	NHSE	NHSE		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Paul Buckley (PaB)	Chief Pharmacist	Stockport FT	GM Chief pharmacists		✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Vacant seat from Nov 23	Chief Pharmacist	TBC	GM Chief pharmacists						
Charlotte Skitterall (CS)	Chief Pharmacist	Manchester FT	GM Chief Pharmacists		✓	✓	A	A	✓
Vacant seat from Nov 23			GM antimicrobial stewardship group + GM diabetes board						
Claire Vaughan (CV)	Associate Director Clinical Leadership and System Integration	GM ICB (Salford)	GM Place Partnership Directors		✓	A	✓	A	✓
Aleksandra Houghton (AHo) or Jo Watts (JW)	Head of MO/Trust pharmacist	GM ICB/MFT	Co-Chair of GMMMG Medicines Safety subgroup		✓	✓	✓	✓ JW	✓
Dr Peter Elton (PE)	SCN representatives	Strategic Clinical Network	Strategic Clinical Network		A	✓	A	✓	A
Dr Aarya Prabhakaran (APrab)	LMC representative	GM LMC	GM LMC		A	✓	✓	✓	PK
Tina Mistry (TM)	Interim Assistant Director Medicines & Pharmacy - Clinical Standards and Population Health	NHS GM	ICB - Clinical and Quality		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant seat			Council representative for GM Social Services						
Dr Simon Sandhu (SS)	Medical Director	Pennine Care	GM Medical Directors		A	A	A	A	A
Craig Davidson (CD)	Implementation Consultant (North)	NICE	NICE		✓	A	A	✓	✓
Nigel Dunkerley (ND)	Assistant Director of Medicines & Pharmacy- Medicines Value	NHS GM	Medicines Value subgroup		✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Anna Pracz (AP) Rob Elsey (RE)	Assistant Director of Medicines & Pharmacy – Secondary Care Integration Head of Strategic Pharmacy Transformation	NHS GM GM Provider Pharmacy Delivery Partnership	High Cost Drugs subgroup		✓ RE	✓	A	✓	✓ ✓
Vacant seat			Lay representative						
Dr Laura French (LF)	Consultant in Public Health	NHS GM	Public Health				✓	✓	✓
Dan Newsome (DN)	Principal pharmacist	RDTC	GMMMG support		✓	✓	✓	✓	GM

1. **General Business**

1.1 Apologies and welcome

Apologies noted as above. New attendees were welcomed, including Pierina Kapur deputising as the LMC representative and Murugesan Raja. No declarations of interest were received. Barry McCann (GM ICB) was in attendance for item 6 and Susan McKernan for item 2.

Declarations of Interest

None declared

2.0 GMMMG Minutes, update from CEGC and Exec, actions and matters arising

- The minutes of the August 2026 meeting were approved as an accurate record.
- July GMMMG decisions have been approved and published.
- Arrangements have been established to obtain more timely feedback following SCC review to expedite publication of decisions.
- Actions relating to financial risk documentation were reported as complete. This risk will be discussed at the next quarterly register review in November.
- Work continues regarding access arrangements for tirzepatide for eligible mental health inpatients and long-term care residents and will return in October

3.0 Clinical medicines recommendations for approval

GMMMG considered the recommendations made by the CRG in August 2026, reached following well-established GMMMG processes which include a six-week GM wide open consultation.

Further discussion took place on the following items:

- Significant discussion took place regarding TA1152, semaglutide for reducing cardiovascular risk. Members recognised the considerable clinical benefits associated with implementation but raised concerns regarding affordability, service capacity and the practical implications of introducing treatment across primary and secondary care. Discussion focused on the need for a clinically robust prescribing pathway, management of referrals for patients not currently under specialist care and the wider commissioning consequences associated with implementation. Concerns were also expressed regarding the statutory implementation timeline and existing delays. Members supported interim formulary inclusion as specialist initiation pending development of a Greater Manchester prescribing pathway and wider service planning work.

- Members approved the commissioning position statement for metformin in non-diabetic hyperglycaemia. The discussion acknowledged the potential benefits in diabetes prevention and population health improvement, whilst recognising the associated workload implications for primary care and the need to ensure future financial planning appropriately reflects implementation costs.

- The proposed use of ivermectin for scabies was approved as a second-line option following failure of topical treatment. Further amendments relating to outbreak management and treatment responsibilities will be incorporated into the supporting documentation.

- Members also approved the revised Incretin Therapies Position Statement. The document was welcomed as a useful resource to support consistent implementation of GLP 1 therapies and to clarify prescribing responsibilities, monitoring requirements and clinical pathways. It was agreed that minor amendments should be made to ensure that references to specialist oversight reflect appropriate clinical competence rather than requiring formal referral to specialist services.

Action: Susan McKernan to continue development of the semaglutide prescribing pathway through the Greater Manchester working group and return proposals through the appropriate governance processes.

Action: NICE Medicines Operations Team to review the Incretin Therapies Position Statement to ensure consistency with emerging national guidance.
Action: All decisions were ratified to submit to CEGC for approval

4.0 Penicillamine Allergy NPSA Alert
Members received an update on the Greater Manchester response to the national patient safety alert concerning incorrect recording of penicillamine allergy. A standard operating procedure has been developed to support systematic review of affected patient records and ensure appropriate correction of coding where required. Members welcomed the work undertaken and recognised the importance of completing the review within the national timescales.

Discussion focused on the wider challenges associated with allergy coding, the distinction between true allergy and intolerance, and the potential patient safety consequences of incorrect records. Members emphasised the importance of direct patient engagement during the review process and highlighted the need for stronger communication mechanisms between primary and secondary care to ensure that any coding amendments are consistently reflected across all systems. The group also noted the wider challenge of inaccurate penicillin allergy recording and supported ongoing work to develop a broader de-labelling strategy.

Members supported the proposed approach whilst recognising the need for continued system-wide coordination through existing antimicrobial stewardship and medicines safety governance arrangements.

Action: Amend the SOP to ensure patients are consulted during the review process and strengthen arrangements for communication of coding changes across care settings.
Action: Submit to CEGC once amendments received.

5.0 Commissioning Intentions 2027/28
Members received a verbal update on the development of commissioning intentions for 2027/28. It was explained that medicines-related proposals have been submitted both as a strategic commissioning signal and as a formal commissioning intention. The strategic signal seeks to highlight the importance of investment in medicines optimisation, prevention, case-finding and early intervention within priority pathways, whilst recognising the role medicines play in reducing avoidable hospital activity and improving clinical outcomes.

A commissioning intention has also been developed in relation to shared care arrangements, focusing particularly on mental health, ADHD and gender services. Members noted the ongoing work across Greater Manchester to develop more sustainable and consistent shared-care models and welcomed recognition of this work within future commissioning plans.
Discussion touched upon the relationship between medicines commissioning, modern service frameworks and neighbourhood delivery models. It was agreed that further engagement with commissioning colleagues would be beneficial as proposals mature through governance processes.

Action: Bring the developing commissioning intentions back to a future meeting and invite commissioning colleagues to provide further detail on proposals

6.0 Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework Update
Members received an overview of the 2026/27 Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework and associated national developments. It was noted that the settlement includes a significant increase in funding and medicines margin support measures intended to improve financial stability across the sector. However, members also heard that substantial financial pressures remain and that many pharmacies continue to face sustainability challenges despite these changes.

Particular discussion took place regarding the future role of independent prescribing within community pharmacy. Members noted the forthcoming introduction of a national Independent Prescribing Service and recognised both the opportunities and challenges associated with expanding clinical services in community pharmacy. Issues raised included workforce development, supervision arrangements, clinical governance and ensuring adequate support for newly qualified prescribers.

The group acknowledged the increasingly important contribution of community pharmacy to neighbourhood health services and discussed how forthcoming protected learning time arrangements may provide opportunities for closer integration with wider neighbourhood teams. Members welcomed the continued collaboration between community pharmacy, primary care and the ICB to support implementation of future services.

Action: None

7.0 Single National Formulary Update

Members received an update on preparations for implementation of the Single National Formulary. It was noted that NHS England has confirmed the new national formulary classification categories and work is underway to map existing GMMMG classifications onto the new terminology. Implementation within the Greater Manchester formulary platform is expected to begin in December 2026.

Members recognised that the current phase of work relates primarily to classification terminology; however, significant discussion took place regarding the future direction of the national formulary and its interaction with existing local governance arrangements. Questions were raised regarding future decision-making processes, the ability to retain local formulary recommendations and how national therapeutic area workstreams may affect existing Greater Manchester guidance and pathways.

The group agreed that Greater Manchester should continue its existing formulary and guideline development processes whilst national arrangements remain under development. Members requested that future communications acknowledge the considerable uncertainty that remains and provide access to national FAQs and implementation updates as they become available.

Action: Update communication materials to reference forthcoming national FAQs and continue to provide updates through GMMMG as further information becomes available

8.0 Medicines Value Group Update

An update from the Medicines Value Group was noted. Members were advised that horizon scanning activity for 2027/28 is commencing and were encouraged to identify forthcoming medicines and service developments at an early stage to support both financial and service planning. The importance of aligning medicines horizon scanning with wider commissioning and service capacity considerations was reiterated.

9.0 Medicines Safety Subgroup Update

Members noted the Medicines Safety Subgroup update. Following approval of the Greater Manchester Valproate Guidance, a system-wide webinar is planned for October to support implementation and launch the associated dashboard. Members were encouraged to share details of the event across their organisations.

10.0 High Cost Drugs Subgroup Update

Members received an update from the High Cost Drugs Subgroup. The revised Gainshare Policy has now received approval through the appropriate finance governance processes and work is underway to implement the arrangements within contractual frameworks. Members also noted the introduction of a new golimumab gainshare scheme from 1 September 2026 and ongoing work within the subgroup programme.

11.0 Communication from Stakeholders

Members received updates from stakeholder representatives. Discussion focused on ongoing work to reduce medicines waste and improve transfer-of-care prescribing arrangements across the system. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring consistency across providers and supporting collaborative approaches between primary care, community pharmacy and secondary care organisations.

AOB: none

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th October 2026, Teams