



Department of Health & Social Care

Minutes – Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances

11 and 12 November 2024 | Department of Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria Street, London

Attendees:

Alison Smith (AS) – Chair

Charlotte Ellerton (CE)

Stuart Lakin (SLk)

[REDACTED]

Ghazala Yousuf (GY)

Ian White (IW)

Emily Walters (EW)

Anne Daly (AD)

Sarah Britton (SB)

Amit Arora (AA)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

Clare Denning (CD)

Andrea Hilton (AH)

Stephen Lewis (SL)

[REDACTED]

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies are listed above. [REDACTED] from the British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) and [REDACTED], Chief Pharmacist and Clinical Director from the London Procurement Partnership attended to observe the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

A nil return was submitted by Ian White. This is at annex A below.

3. Minutes of the 16 July 2024 meeting

The minutes were agreed and ratified.

4. Business

■

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b. Discussion with [REDACTED] on application form amendments

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] submitted a change control request to amend the ACBS application form and process. The proposal was provided at appendix 3 of the meeting papers.

Representatives of [REDACTED] attended to present their proposal to ACBS. The ACBS agreed with the proposal as set out in appendix 3 of the meeting papers. In line with the change control process, ACBS will forward the proposal to the BSNA for consideration by industry representatives.

- ❖ Secretariat to complete the ACBS assessment of the change control and forward to BSNA for consideration.

c. Feedback to companies (Alison Smith)

The Secretariat sent an email to committee members in October sharing the objectives of the DHSC's Medicines Directorate. The Secretariat suggested that the committee aligns how it feeds back to companies on their products with the objectives. This is to ensure the ACBS conducts itself in line with departmental objectives and to provide clear direction in the reviewing of products.

The committee agreed with the suggestion. Effective immediately, the ACBS will feedback to manufacturers with the following objectives in mind and under the respective headings:

- Continuing to improve the **value and affordability** of medicines spend

- Improve the safety and optimisation of the way medicines are prescribed, dispensed and used.
- ❖ All committee members to submit feedback under the headings of 'value and affordability' and 'safety and optimisation'.

d. Patient safety audit (Alison Smith)

Following the outcome of the ACBS consultation, committee members were previously notified that NHS England's Patient Safety Team would be conducting a period prevalence study to determine the scale and nature of patient safety incidents related to nutritional borderline substances.

The committee were informed that the survey for the study closed on 25 October. The survey results are still being analysed. The secretariat will keep the committee apprised of developments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The committee also discussed the need to raise the profile of borderline substances. A bill of £600m per annum and issues with safety and efficacy need tackling but go unnoticed because of the low profile compared with medicines, or in the misunderstanding that these issues are already being managed as part of medicines. It was mentioned that the role of Chair in the past included occasional access to and meetings with ministers and the chief scientific advisor, and this is still stipulated in the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. However, this has not happened in the current Chair's tenure. The committee decided it should write a letter, and possibly have this jointly signed by other organisations, to make ministers aware of the problems and the need for action.

■ [REDACTED]

f. Meeting date for November 2025 [REDACTED]

The committee agreed to set a meeting for 10 and 11 November 2025.

❖ Secretariat to put the meeting dates in diaries and update the schedule on Gov.UK

5. Product submissions

Product submissions were discussed. A record of this conversation is at appendix B.

6. Submissions processed mid-term

Appendix 2 of the meeting papers provided detail on the submissions processed mid-term. No amendments or comments were raised.

Table of actions

Action	Responsible
❖ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
❖ Secretariat to complete the ACBS assessment of the change control and forward to BSNA for consideration.	Secretariat
❖ All committee members to submit feedback under the headings of 'value and affordability' and 'safety and optimisation'.	All
❖ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
❖ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
❖ Secretariat to put the meeting dates in diaries and update the schedule on Gov.UK	Secretariat

Appendix A – Declarations of interest

Name	Name of organisation	Nature of interest
Ian White	Ian R. White	Nil. No honoraria, travel, hospitality, unrestricted grants, consultancy fees or any other exposure.

[illegible]

* Resubmission