

# The AHSN Network

## Reference: FOI 20230404

Dear

Thank you for your request for information received on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, The AHSN Network is not a legal entity and comprises of membership of 15 AHSNs and their employees. As a result, we are unable to respond to your request directly but refer you to each AHSN to respond. Details of each AHSN can be found at the bottom of our website:

<https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/>

Whilst we are not a legal entity, the AHSN Network coordinating centre works across the AHSNs including supporting work on cardiovascular disease prevention. This includes where appropriate working with Novartis on the rollout of Inclisiran within our wider programme of work to improve lipid lowering management. The AHSN Network is funded by contributions from the 15 Academic Health Science Networks and has not received funding from Novartis.

Whilst we are not a legal entity, I thought it would be useful to provide details of the work we have supported.

The AHSN Network, via 15 Academic Health Science Networks, rolled out a three-year programme to support lipid management and familial hypercholesterolemia supporting primary care teams with information, education and training to help them prescribe the most appropriate treatment for patients. Inclisiran was one of the treatments offered in clinical pathways developed to improve lipid lowering management in primary and secondary care. Novartis were not involved in the development of these treatment pathways.

Details of this programme, alongside patient pathways and communication videos made in collaboration with Heart UK can be found on our AHSN Network Website:

<https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/programmes/cardiovascular-disease/lipid-management-and-familial-hypercholesterolemia/>

You asked about the meetings we have had with Novartis and I have included details of the programme governance structure (please see Attachment 1). Of note:

- Novartis were invited to attend the monthly AHSN-led Lipid Management Programme Board, although were excluded where a conflict of interest is identified. This meeting is not minuted but an action log is maintained (please see Attachment 2).



- There is also a monthly NHS England led meeting to which both AHSNs and Novartis are members (the Joint Steering Committee). Since June 2022, the AHSN Network has been represented at the monthly joint steering meetings. NHS E would need to be approached for further information on this meeting (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/foi/>).

Both of the above meetings are identified on the governance chart. Novartis were also in attendance at the following meetings that are part of the governance structure:

- **The Pricing Task and Finish Group** – a technical group that considers the ordering and reimbursement arrangements and requires Novartis input.
- **The Communications Group** – where Novartis attend where there is a need for a co-ordinated approach to support communication activities or input on technical items that need to be communicated.
- **The National Lipid Programme Workforce Support Solutions (NLPWSS)** - an expression of interest was led by the AHSNs for PCNs to apply to receive access to in house clinical education, and support with patient identification and medicines review, from independent clinical pharmacy service companies. Novartis then continued to develop service agreements with successful recipients.
- **Delivery Models** - where AHSN and Novartis work together to develop implementation solutions to improve lipid lowering.
- **Education** - development of HCP education materials between HEART UK and AHSN. Novartis attend on occasions to share calendars of events and avoid date clashes.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Walton

Interim Coordination Director

