

**National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE)
for Carbapenem-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE)¹**
Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the NPHE

The NPHE will manage the response to the CPE emergency at national level and provide reports to the Minister for Health.

The NPHE will provide advice, guidance, support and direction on:

- the surveillance and management of CPE at national level
- the development and implementation of a strategy to contain CPE
- oversight and assurance of the above.

The work of NPHE will conduct its work having regard to the broader HCAI and AMR issues in line with *Ireland's National Action on AMR 2017-2020*.

2. Scope of services to be included

As HCAs and AMR can present throughout the healthcare process, all settings will be considered in decision making regarding this public health emergency. Specifically, acute hospital settings, residential care settings, laboratory services and primary care settings will be of focus.

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 Oversee and provide expert advice, guidance, support and direction for the overall national response to CRE, including national and regional and other outbreak control arrangements.
- 3.2 Direct the collection and analysis of required data and information and the subsequent reports to NPHE.
- 3.3 Conduct an on-going situational analysis and evaluation having regard to reports received, expert advice, international guidance and assurance regarding optimal use of resources.
- 3.4 Liaise with relevant organisations and stakeholders, to include other Government departments, statutory and voluntary agencies, international bodies and the relevant regulators.
- 3.5 Direct and ensure an effective communications system at local, regional and national levels.
- 3.6 Evaluate on an on-going basis the readiness of the health service to manage and sustain the containment of CPE as part of ordinary operations with a view to standing down the NPHE at the appropriate time.

4. Communications

Communications support will be provided in line with an agreed communications strategy, including public communications. A dedicated webpage, hosted on the Department of Health website will be established. Summary minutes and inputs to each meeting will be published. Regular reports and updates will be prepared and submitted to the Minister of Health, Department of Health and others as required.

¹ Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) or carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE)¹ are bacteria that are resistant to the carbapenem class of antibiotics, considered the drugs of last resort for such infections. These terms are often used interchangeably. The term CPE will be used in this document.

5. Modus Operandi

Responsibilities of members of the NPHET:

Members of the NPHET will be required to

1. Ensure the NPHET meets its terms of reference.
2. Implement the actions as decided by the NPHET within their respective organisations.
3. Act as ambassadors and advocates for the work of the NPHET.
4. Commit to attending meetings of the NPHET.
5. Declare any conflicts of interest.

Working Arrangements:

Meetings of the NPHET will be held at regular intervals, initially weekly to biweekly as required. The NPHET may invite external experts to assist with particular pieces of work as required.

Wherever possible the named NPHET members should attend meetings in person. Where this is not possible, the Chair should be notified in advance of apologies and the named nominee who will attend on the member's behalf. Members should ensure there is appropriate process for their update from the nominee post meeting and the necessary actions are taken.

Subgroups:

The Chair of the NPHET may set up subgroups to consider specific topics of work as required and report back to the committee.

Expert advisors:

Expert advisors will be required to attend and provide input for NPHET meetings as directed by the Chair.

International advisors and other stakeholders:

International advisors and other stakeholders may be invited to attend at the discretion of the Chair.