



National Review of Specialist Cardiac Services

Progress Update 1

Steering Group Meetings

The Steering Group met on 30th January, 26th March and 30th April 2018. The meeting planned for 1st March was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions but work was progressed via e-mail.

Steering Group membership

In order to further enhance the expertise of the Steering Group, at the request of the Chair a number of additional members were appointed:

- Kieran Daly (clinical lead of the Acute Coronary Syndrome programme) is a nominee of the HSE.
- Macartan Hughes (Chief Ambulance Officer with responsibility for Education and Competency Assurance) is the nominee of the National Ambulance Service.
- Geraldine McMahon (St. James' Hospital, Dublin) is the replacement nominee of the Irish Association of Emergency Medicine.
- Claire O'Brien (Clinical Director for University Hospital Kerry) is a nominee of the HSE.
- The Irish College of GPs will nominate in the coming weeks.

Progress

- *Scope* - In the opening period of the Review, the Steering Group felt it necessary to assess the scope of the Review, in order to ensure that all relevant areas were being considered. As the Group considered it important to examine all cardiac diseases falling under Specialist Cardiac Services, a broad and inclusive interpretation of the scope was approved. In doing so, the Group recognised that this would necessitate a balance to be struck in order to deliver a timely review. The Group agreed that all areas within scope would be addressed, but some areas would be subjected to greater scrutiny and analysis than others that may be appropriately 'signposted'.

- *Presentations* – The Steering Group has received presentations from Kieran Daly regarding the work of the Acute Coronary Syndrome programme and from Ken McDonald on the work of the Heart Failure Programme. Both programmes have undertaken valuable work including collecting data and standardising practice and pathways. The Review will build on this work.
- *Communication* – A dedicated webpage was created for the Review on the Department of Health website. This page contains all minutes of meetings (once approved by the Steering Group), press releases, FAQs etc.
- *Data* – Given the importance of this step, a significant amount of effort is being dedicated to scoping out all of the available data sources. A draft data analysis plan is being prepared, as well as the methodologies for the analysis of key data sets e.g. Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE), National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) etc. In addition, a draft survey is currently being created which will be issued to acute hospitals in the coming weeks in order to gather baseline information on current specialist cardiac facilities, staffing, services and pathways in acute hospitals in Ireland.
- *Evidence Review* – The tender for assistance in relation to the Evidence Review opened on 18th April 2018. The Evidence Review will deliver individual synthesis reports in relation to four topic areas:
 - Acute Coronary Syndrome
 - Heart Failure
 - Cardiac Arrhythmias
 - Other matters within the scope of the National Review

The reports will provide for each topic area a synthesis of the clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence for optimum service design for adult specialist cardiac services within a national context. The Evidence Review will address a set of questions which will be brought to the Steering Group for discussion/approval in May/June. The questions will be in place for the contractor beginning work at the start of July.

- *Public Consultation* - The Steering Group is currently working on the wording of the draft survey. It is expected that the public consultation will open in the next quarter. Communication activity will be undertaken closer to the launch date to ensure that the public is fully aware of the consultation.
- *Stakeholder Consultation* – Stakeholder Engagement events are expected to begin immediately following the public consultation phase. These events will allow stakeholders to express their views to the Review and to other key stakeholders. It is anticipated that the first event will be held in September 2018.

Upcoming Activity in May-July 2018

- May 2018 – Planning of Stakeholder Engagement event
- May 2018 – Development of Consultation survey questions
- May 25th 2018 – Steering Group meeting
- June 2018 – Progress of Evidence Review Tender Process
- June 2018 – Commencement of Public Consultation
- June 29th 2018 – Steering Group meeting
- July 2018 – On-going Public Consultation