

National Review of Specialist Cardiac Services - Summary of Steering Group Meeting

Date – 29.06.18

Location - Hawkins House, Department of Health

Attendees - Philip Nolan (Chair), Peter Wright, Tanya King, Kathleen MacLellan, Frank McFall, Lucinda McNerney, James Crowley, Ivan Casserley, Sarah Condell (Secretariat), Denis Ryan (Secretariat), Ruth McDermott (Secretariat), Mary McGeown (NPSO), Sheona Gilsean (DoH), Jacqui Curley (National Pricing office), Aideen Rowe (NPO)

Apologies – Pat Nash, Kieran Daly, Claire O’Brien, Sinead Donohue, Brendan McAdam, Geraldine McMahan, Sharon Donoghue

Summary of Discussion - The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Steering Group (SG) meeting including Ivan Casserley, as Colm Henry’s replacement.

The Chair welcomed Jacqui Curley and Aideen Rowe from Health Pricing office (HPO) to the meeting. Ms Curley presented an overview of the HIPE system and how it is being used for policy and programmes (annual reports from National Clinical Programmes for Anaesthesia and Sepsis). She outlined its quality control mechanisms and how these could relate to the National Review. Ms Curley noted in her presentation the importance of mismatches in the data regarding Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) mismatches in Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) stressing it might not be useful to delve too deeply into the subcategories for each MDC. The discussion that followed noted that a National Audit (known as Pavilion Report, 2016) calculated a ‘margin of error’ of around 9.5%. The Chair noted that this would be taken in consideration when looking at any figures relating to cardiology.

The Group then had a discussion on work package (WP) updates. In relation to WP 1, the secretariat informed the meeting that the survey had issued to all public hospitals following the pilot and the private hospital tool was now in development. HIPE analysis is ongoing with the Department statisticians. The questions regarding Health Intelligence mapping were circulated to SG members prior to the meeting. It was suggested that estimates of caseload/timelines and the numbers of procedures carried out would be important in finding out the capacity of each of the centres.

Progress in relation to WP2 was outlined. A tender for Evidence Synthesis closed on 24th May. Following a tender evaluation process on the one application received, it was decided to cancel the tender due to a lack of specificity in the Request for Tender document. An alternative approach is being considered. The SG was provided with a set of draft Evidence Review questions. It was agreed a subgroup would look at the questions further. Contact would be made with the Irish contact on the European Society of Cardiology to discuss getting access to its atlas of cardiology.

Regarding WP 5, the public consultation is now live until 17th August. 146 surveys have been completed to date and 1639 interactions with the survey. Communication activity took place following the launch of the survey (press, social media etc.).

In terms of WP 4, a proposal for the first Key Stakeholder event was presented to the meeting after being circulated in advance. It was agreed to proceed with the stakeholder consultation event on the 25th October in a Dublin location. Members of the SG were asked to review the stakeholders to revert to the Secretariat with details of any grouping omitted.

The Secretariat also informed the SG of the progress delay in relation to the formation of the International Reference Panel. Further contact has been made the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Cardiac Network to see if they would be in a position to nominate an appropriate individual.

At the end of the meeting the Chair thanked Dr Ruth McDermott for her all her hard work and contributions to the Steering Group.

Decisions – Minutes of 25th May approved

Actions – Secretariat to start preparations for public stakeholder event and SG to do final review on list of stakeholders; Secretariat to finalise evidence review questions with an SG subgroup ; Secretariat to continue seeking a third international expert (clinical leadership).

Date/Time of next meeting – 3rd September (14:00 – 16:00)