

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

Date - 25.05.18

Location - Hawkins House, Department of Health

Attendees - Philip Nolan (Chair), Peter Wright, Brendan McAdam, Geraldine McMahon, Macartan Hughes, Sharon Donohue, Tanya King, Kathleen MacLellan, Frank McFall, Sarah Condell (Secretariat), Stephen Duffy (Secretariat), Ruth McDermott (Secretariat), Howard Johnson (HIU), Naomi Petty-Saphon (HIU).

Apologies – Ken McDonald, Pat Nash, Kieran Daly, Claire O'Brien, Sinead Donohue, Celeste O'Callaghan, Lucinda McNerney, James Crowley

Summary of Discussion - The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Steering Group meeting. The Chair informed the Group that Colm Henry has withdrawn from the Group due to a change in role and a replacement nominee will be sought from the HSE.

After the Group approved the minutes of the 30th April meeting, the Chair welcomed Howard Johnson and Naomi Petty-Saphon from the HSE Health Intelligence Unit (HIU) to the meeting. They presented the current mapping capabilities of the HIU and how this could relate to the National Review. Following a discussion with the HIU, it was agreed that the Secretariat would take the lead on drafting a set of potential questions that could inform the modelling exercise.

The Group then had a discussion on the various work packages that comprise the Review. In relation to Work Package 1, the Secretariat outlined to the Group that a final version of the baseline scoping review for public hospitals is currently being piloted. A similar instrument will also be sent to the private hospitals. The relevant HIPE codes have also been gathered and the data is being analysed. On this point, it was decided that a calculation of the margin of error in the HIPE data for each of the relevant diagnoses may be useful. The Secretariat will explore and potentially create a proposal around this work.

The Secretariat then outlined the progress in relation to Work Package 2. A tender for Evidence Synthesis was launched in mid-April 2018 and closed on the 24th May. One application was received and will undergo a tender evaluation process. The Group was also provided with a set of draft Evidence Review questions for consideration. Given the importance of this exercise, it was agreed that the Group would take a few more weeks to assess the potential questions – with the aim of finalising the set of questions in late-June.

In regard to Work Package 5 (public consultation), the consultation is expected to go-live on the 30th May and remain open until 17th August. Communication activity (press, social media etc.) will take place to ensure that the public and relevant stakeholders are aware. In terms of Work Package 4, the first Stakeholder event is expected to take place in September 2018 and the Secretariat will bring a specific proposal to the Steering Group in June. The Secretariat also informed the Steering Group of the progress delay in relation to the formation of the International Reference Panel.

Decisions – Minutes of 30th April approved

Actions – Secretariat to draft questions for HIU modelling; Secretariat to create proposal on HIPE margin of error work; Steering Group to consider potential Evidence Review questions; Secretariat to produce a proposal regarding Stakeholder event

Date/Time of next meeting – 29th June (time TBC)