

Minutes of the National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee – second meeting, 11th June 2015

Location: Room 5W Agriculture Hse

Attendance:

Chairs:

Mr. Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) (Co-Chair) and Ms. Hazel Sheridan, Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector who Co-Chaired the meeting when M Blake was called away to attend an urgent matter. Dr. Eibhlín Connolly DCM, Patient Safety & Quality Unit (Chair) in the absence of
Dr. Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) who was unable to attend the meeting

Committee Members:

Dr. Robert Cunney, Clinical Lead, HSE HCAI & AMR Clinical Programme

Dr. Darina O' Flanagan, Director, HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Dr. Kevin Kelleher, Assistant National Director, Health Protection HSE **by telephone conference** (o.b.o. Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, National Director)

Dr Brian Donlon, Research Manager EPA (ob.o. Laura Burke)

Dr. John Egan, Superintending Senior Research Officer, Central Veterinary Research Laboratory

Mr. Bill Cashman, President, Veterinary Council of Ireland

Mr. John O'Rourke, President, Veterinary Ireland

Mr. John Comer, President, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Mr Pat O'Mahony, CEO, Health Products Regulatory Authority

Dr. Pamela Byrne, CEO, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Mr Bert Stewart, Irish Farmers Association (o.b.o. Eddie Downey)

Department of Health:

Ms. Eithne Barron, Patient Safety & Quality Unit

Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine:

Ms. Caroline Garvan, Veterinary Inspector

Ms. Breda Meehan, Veterinary Medicines Division

Health Products Regulatory Authority

Dr. Gabriel Beechinor, Director Veterinary Sciences

Apologies:

Dr. Margaret O'Sullivan, Chair, National Zoonoses Committee

Dr. Niamh O'Sullivan, Chair HSE/RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on HCAI

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the 1st meeting of the Committee held on 4th March 2015 were approved.

2. Revised Terms of Reference(TORs)

The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) were first discussed at the meeting of the Committee in March 2015 and a number of amendments thereto were suggested. The revised Terms of Reference, taking account of the amendments suggested by the Committee in March, were discussed. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be further amended and would be circulated before the next meeting of the Committee provisionally scheduled for November 2015.

3. World Health Organisation – Global Action Plan

The Department of Health reported on the World Health Organisation's recently adopted Global Action Plan on AMR. They outlined the five objectives listed in the action plan which had input from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as well as WHO Member States (MS). It is intended that MS will use this plan as a framework for the development of their individual national action plans which the WHO recommends would be developed within the next two years. The plan outlines the requirement for engagement from all stakeholders to reflect the prime importance of AMR in relation to humans, animals, food and the environment. As well as continued surveillance, the plan also places an emphasis on prevention of disease through infection control procedures, as well as prudent use in both human and animal health. It was acknowledged that some of the actions listed were already established in Ireland, however, further discussion and examination of areas listed is required. It was agreed that both Departments would do a preliminary assessment as to where we are nationally in the context of the objectives of the WHO global action plan so that priorities can be identified.

4. Proposed priorities for future actions

A number of priorities for future joint intersectoral action were discussed with a view to identifying topics for intersectoral action.

In terms of raising awareness in relation to the challenge of AMR in the context of the 'One Health' agenda, it was suggested by the Department of Health that there was a need to further publicise that both Departments were working together and suggested a joint press release to coincide with European Antibiotic Awareness Week in November 2015. It was suggested by the Veterinary Council that collection of consumption data in the agricultural sector was needed in order to drive home the message of the necessity to control AMR and to educate the public. The Veterinary Council also highlighted the use of antimicrobials in companion animals as an issue to be considered when it comes to the development of AMR. The HPSC outlined awareness raising initiatives that have been successfully carried out in the health sector, i.e. social media campaigns (e.g. Under the Weather), website alerts, summary guidelines for prescribers, development of antibiotic champions and projects to educate children at school. The ICMSA suggested that the genomic work being done by ICBF presented some potential in terms of breeding healthier animals. Whilst initially questions were

posed regarding the need, following the discussions the Committee agreed that actions aimed at raising public and professional awareness in the animal sector would be worthwhile.

5. **AMR SURVEILLANCE**

The following presentations were made to the Committee :

A. Presentation by Dr. Darina O Flanagan, Director of Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Dr. O'Flanagan outlined the background to the ongoing surveillance and human data that has been collected. She discussed the gaps in the currently available data when compared to that detailed in the Danish Danmap report but stated that the majority of the data required to produce a 'Danmaplike' report for Ireland was already being collected. In terms of overall surveillance, a lot of progress has been made but Dr. O'Flanagan emphasised that any new requirements or production of a joint report would require additional resources.

B. Presentation by Dr John Egan, Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, National Reference Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine

Dr Egan outlined the operation of the DAFM network in relation to antimicrobial susceptibility testing and surveillance findings in relation to zoonotic pathogens. He detailed the current mandatory surveillance required at EU level which focuses on the testing of particular animal species and food derived thereof. Dr Egan focused on the use of standardised methods to examine resistance to antimicrobials used in the human population, and also mentioned some of the ongoing research projects on pig health, welfare and productivity. He also emphasised that resources must be considered in relation to any additional projects that might be considered as priorities for AMR action.

C. Presentation by Dr. Gabriel Beechinor, Director of Veterinary Sciences, Health Protection Regulatory Authority

Dr. Beechinor gave a presentation on critically important antimicrobials (CIAs) and discussed their usage and consumption in the veterinary sector. He also referred to the Heads of Medicines Agencies strategy and action plan in relation to monitoring of sales, availability of medicines, and surveillance of AMR resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacterial pathogens.

Following the presentations, a discussion was held in relation to the value of a joint approach to AMR surveillance.. Whilst all members of the Committee agreed that joint surveillance would be a valuable exercise, issues relating to ambition and resources need further examination. In that context, DAFM undertook to send a copy of the DANMAP 2013 report to all participants. The Department of Health commented that there is a need to develop a business case for additional surveillance reporting that would have the support of both Departments. The Department of Health will engage with the HSE and

HPSC with a view to having this additional surveillance resource requirement included in the HSE's Estimates for this year and next.

6. ***Promotion of prudent use***

This was only discussed very briefly due to time constraints. It was agreed that further discussion would take place at the next meeting as to the value of putting together a joint statement on the ethics of prescribing as is included on page 39 of the DANMAP 2013 report.

7. ***A.O.B.***

- The FSAI called for discussion documents to be circulated in advance of future meetings and advised members that an FSAI report on the topic of AMR is due for finalization in September.
- The EPA (at their suggestion) offered to make a presentation in relation to the environmental perspective at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

It is envisaged that the Group would meet twice yearly; the Department of Health undertook to circulate proposed dates.

Veterinary Medicines

DAFM

1 July 2015