NPHET Ethics Sub-Group Update

1. The supplementary information paper to the “Ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the context of COVID-19” guidance was published on 29th April. It was welcomed by disability advocates and colleagues in the HSE.

2. The Ethics subgroup discussed a draft paper outlining the ethical considerations relating to long-term care residential care settings in the context of COVID-19. The paper will address all long term residential care settings (nursing homes, disability and mental health) and will provide guidance in the same manner as the “Ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the Context of COVID-19”. The subgroup aims to submit the paper to NPHET on Tuesday 19th May.

   Dr O’Sullivan gave a presentation to the Vulnerable Persons Sub Group in relation to the paper and invited feedback.

3. The sub-group is preparing a paper elaborating on the five procedural values:
   - reasonableness,
   - inclusiveness,
   - openness and transparency,
   - responsiveness and
   - accountability

identified in the “Ethical Framework for Decision Making in a Pandemic”. The paper will illustrate how the procedural values support decision making and will reinforce the importance of documenting decisions and the rationale behind them.