

Minute of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee 's 11th Meeting

Thursday 7th November 2019 – 2.30pm

Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

Attendance

Chairs

Ms Marita Kinsella - Director, NPSO (o.b.o. Dr. Tony Holohan, CMO & Committee Co-Chair) (MK)
Dr Martin Blake - Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) & Committee Co-Chair (MB)

Committee Members

Prof Martin Cormican – HCAI AMR National Lead – HSE (MC)
Dr Karen Burns – Consultant Microbiologist – HPSC/HSE (KB)
Dr Kevin Kelleher – HPSC Assistant National Director for Public Health & Child Health (HSE) (KK) (by teleconference)
Dr Margaret O’Sullivan – Chair, National Zoonoses Committee (MOS)
Dr Lorraine Nolan – CEO, Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) (LN)
Dr Pamela Byrne – CEO, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) (PB)
Dr Aisling O’Connor – Scientific Officer, Research, EPA (AOC) (Alternate for Dr Laura Burke, Director, EPA)
Dr William Byrne - Deputy Director of Laboratories DAFM (Alternate for Dr. Dónal Sammin, Director of Laboratories, DAFM) (WB)
Mr David Graham – CEO, Animal Health Ireland (AHI) (DG)
Ms Fiona Tierney – Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) (Alternate for Ms Niamh Muldoon – CEO) (FT)
Mr David McGuinness – President, Veterinary Ireland (VI) (DMcG)
Mr Tomás Bourke – Animal Health Executive Secretary, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) (Alternate for Mr. Joe Healy, President) (TB)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms. Marita Kinsella – Director, National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) (MK)
Ms Rosarie Lynch – Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO (RL)
Ms Eithne Barron – Patient Safety Surveillance Unit, NPSO (EB)
Ms Sarah Delaney – Patient Safety Surveillance Unit, NPSO (SD)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector (CG)
Ms Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector (JB)

Apologies

Dr Tony Holohan – Chief Medical Officer (CMO), DoH & Committee Co-Chair (TH)
Dr Dónal Sammin – Director of Laboratories, DAFM (DS)
Dr Niamh O’Sullivan – Consultant Microbiologist, HSE/RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on HCAI (NOS)
Ms Brigid Doherty – Public Representative (BD)
Mr Pat McCormack – ICMSA (PMcC)
Ms Niamh Muldoon – CEO Veterinary Council of Ireland (NM)
Mr Rob Doyle – Head of Division, Veterinary Medicines Division et al, DAFM (RD)
Mr Niall McIntyre – Veterinary Medicines Division, DAFM (NMcl)

1. Welcome and Apologies

MK opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 10th Meeting of 3rd April 2019, including Actions from Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the last/tenth meeting were circulated before this meeting. A required amendment was noted, and the minutes were approved subject to this edit.

MC advised the meeting that the GP project on peer engagement on prescribing habits of GPs with a GMS List (referencing the WHO 'traffic light' system for prescribing preferred antibiotics) had been well received. The first quarterly report showing individual GPs their comparator prescribing pattern versus the national picture had been issued and the intention is to focus on a particular message each quarter. An anonymised report will be prepared for information. It is noted that similar work using high level data from Hospital Consumption Data may be helpful in making feedback more accessible to non-specialist prescribers. The HSE offered to provide a sample report which could be circulated for information on format to members.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest Forms were circulated to all members.

4. For information: Update on 'One Health' actions

The DoH hosted an **informal lunch for Prof. Dame Sally Davies, CMO, England**. As well as DAFM colleagues, colleagues from Northern Ireland attended including Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer and Chief Veterinary Officer. The meeting was advised by Dame Sally that at UN level a high-level leadership group has been established to address further the matter of engagement and guidance on tackling AMR worldwide, under the auspices of the Inter Agency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG). This follows on from the publication of the IACG Report to the UN Secretary General entitled "No Time to Wait: Securing the Future from Drug-Resistant Infections", published in April 2019. DoH/DAFM will keep the Committee updated on this initiative.

It was agreed that 'One Health' engagements with Northern Ireland colleagues would continue as required to provide update on issues of shared interest. (Further information in agenda item 10 iv).

DAFM advised that a fortnightly article and video clip on AMR awareness is now being published in the **Irish Farmer's Journal** and will run for 13 weeks.

DAFM advised the meeting that the **One Health European Joint Programme (EJP) 1st Annual Scientific Conference on AMR**, co-hosted by Teagasc and NUIG was held from 22nd-24th May 2019. Its target audience was the agriculture community including farmers and environment stakeholders. Its emphasis was on practical actions to reduce AMR on farms. Both the DoH, DAFM and EPA, among other interested stakeholders, attended.

DAFM advised the meeting of a forthcoming **ONE HEALTH: Awareness to Action - Antimicrobial and Anthelmintic Resistance Conference**, which was scheduled for Wednesday, 27th November 2019 in Tullamore. Target audience is farmers and veterinary practitioners. The event was organised jointly by Teagasc, DAFM, University College Dublin (UCD), Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).

5. Update from EU One Health Network meeting (15th Oct)

RL & CG attended the **European Commission AMR One Health Network Meeting** in Brussels on 15th October 2019, representing both Departments. The group, chaired by the Commission, meets twice yearly. They provided update from the meeting via a presentation. The slides will be circulated to Committee members. Items covered included

- the WHO 2018-2019 annual self-assessment Questionnaire - *Monitoring of Country Progress on AMR*;
- a presentation from DG Environment on a strategic approach to tackling antibiotics in the environment which has been developed, with 6 actions, a main focus being waste management; development of a Hygiene Guide for Veterinary Reception, by Finland; a Training for Safer Food programme for the veterinary and public health sectors has also been developed; updates from European agencies; updates on National Action Plans from two member states.

6. Update from Subgroup on 'One Health' AMR Surveillance Report

MO'S provided update on the progress of the second AMR Surveillance Report, the second report will be in the same format as the first and all agreed this was suitable. Work on various chapters had progressed but collation was still needed into an overall report. It was acknowledged that aiming for publication during European Antibiotic Awareness Week in November 2019, is not suitable as it will not align with Number of key data sources, including the European figures. The group will continue to work on their report and advise a more appropriate publication date, aiming for early 2020. The second report will include environmental data and consideration of the data gaps identified in the first report. There was discussion on the need to accurately reflect acknowledgments in the final publication.

The Group still intends to engage with the Danish DANMAP group with a view to arranging to meet on their report processes. Such a visit would inform a business case considering the sustainability and supports required for of ongoing One Health Reports. MOS advised that the most recent DANMAP report was published in September 2019.

7. Update from Committee Subgroup on Disposal of Antibiotics

The subgroup continues to examine the issue. It has considered a Framework for the Safe Disposal of Antibiotics and is documenting the position across the relevant sectors – hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, pharmacies, GP practices, veterinary practices, farms, with a focus on addressing end-point treatment and disposal.

The group will discuss two upcoming reports due for publication – the Farm Hazardous Waste Scheme Report and a EPA Report on hazardous waste disposal 2016 - 2017. Engagements with hospitals and the health sector waste disposal contractor are also planned. It was agreed that the newly appointed AMRIC pharmacist will take up membership of the subgroup and that considering inclusion of a pharmaceutical industry representative in the group. LN offered to nominate a representative from HPRA to sit on the subgroup.

It was discussed that the scope of the group on addressing AMR in the environment or purely on the issue of disposal should be clarified at this early stage, having regard to the considerable task being examined. The need to consider phased implementation of any changes was also acknowledged.

8. Update post European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) / European Commission One Health AMR Country Visit (7th to 11th October 2019)

The visit of the EC/ECDC was held on the above dates. On behalf of the DoH and DAFM the two Chairs expressed their sincere thanks to all stakeholders who participated in the visit; thanks, were also offered to the Committee members for their participation in Day 1's opening day-long event and throughout the week. The visit was very successful, and all health sector site visits and the agriculture and environment days' engagements were hosted to

the satisfaction of all involved. It was acknowledged that the environmental input (traditionally not a specific stream in such visits) contributed to the overall success of the visit.

The visiting team gave initial verbal feedback on the week's activities across the health, agriculture and environment sectors and will provide a draft written report within 4-5 weeks for factual accuracy checking and any observations Ireland wishes to make.

Once finalised, the report will be circulated.

9. Update on Sector-specific activities - Tour de Table

Health

The HTA on Point-of-Care testing (POCT) has been completed by HIQA and was published in May 2019. Its conclusion was that more information is required on how this test would work in an Irish setting, including information on cost implications. A pilot study is being scoped to collect Irish data.

The Economic Burden Study on AMR, being conducted through HRB-CICER is progressing. The Terms of Reference and appointment of an Expert Group are being finalised. The Committee will be kept apprised of the Study's work as it develops.

DAFM

54 DAFM Actions in the *iNAP* Implementation Plan have been identified. Of these, 11 have been completed and two projects are due to commence in 2020 - a Teagasc-led 'Safe Food' study on attitudes and behaviours around the use of antibiotics and an ESRI study on behavioural change in prescribers, agricultural use of antibiotics and communication with farmers.

A Pig Sector antibiotic usage database (known as AMU Pig) went live from 1st November last and already there have been some logins. It will build up quarterly data gathering on salmonella in pigs with voluntary input by farmers. This initiative aims to support Irish pig production with reduced levels of antibiotic treatments. In time, it may become a requirement under the Bord Bia QA programme.

Acknowledgment of the work that has gone into the second One Health Surveillance Report, in particular from the animal health perspective the work of Rosemary Slowey, in preparing the report was noted. The report will be important to demonstrate the effects of the hard work and changes brought about by the farming stakeholders.

HSE

The HSE's 4th RESIST communications quarterly newsletter will be circulated to Committee members. RESIST antibiotic videos and updates on the website are planned ready for launch for European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) on the 28th November. In addition, the ESAC and the EarsNet 2018 Annual Reports will be published by European Centre for Disease Control for EAAD)

Hospital antibiotic consumption is noted to be increasing; the focus is now on antimicrobial usage. For example, prophylactic antibiotics and usage patterns for benzylpenicillin.

In the community sector focus is on the GP projects already underway and a community pilot project to collect basic data on Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) has commenced. From the information gathered a national monthly reporting process will be developed. (Earlier discussion on GP report also refers here – see item 4). AMR in *Neisseria gonorrhoea* is an emerging concern.

Support in 2019 to enhance structures around addressing HCAI/AMR has allowed recruitment of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) staff to increase capacity at the front line. and surveillance software improvements.

VI

AMR has been the main discussion point at veterinary conferences this year. Vets are very conscious of their responsibility around prudent prescribing of antibiotics and of protecting Critically Important Antimicrobials (CIAs).

IFA

The IFA continues to build awareness of AMR and drive education on the issue through distribution of literature through branch and county structures. The Association also provides tools and information with sector-specific guidelines. Guidelines for the pig sector have been completed and those for the dairy sector are near finalisation. Poultry and beef sector guidelines are also being developed. The IFA is also engaged in development of a framework for safe disposal of antibiotics.

The issue of the level of VAT on vaccines is an important issue for farmers, with approximately a quarter of the overall spend on vaccines attributed to VAT costs. MK stated that both Departments are conscious of this issue and are working to address the matter. The CVO advised that the two Departments are working to address this concern acknowledging that vaccination is an important preventative health tool.

AHI

Training of veterinary practitioners and dissemination of key messages is ongoing around usage of dry cow treatment with a move from blanket to selective treatment; data sharing of information with companies is also part of the programme. A Guidance Document for dairy farmers is nearly completed. The use of CellCheck for recording milk production is planned.

A Programme Manager for the Pig sector has been appointed and funded to support biosecurity measures; in addition a salmonella control plan to address drug-resistant salmonella in pig herds has also been developed.

HPRA

A press statement from the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) in July 2019, in relation to combatting AMR and referencing international regulatory developments, was written with HPRA input. The group represents regulators of acute medicines for human use and is calling for a coalition of strategic leadership across industry, global health leaders and media organisations to address AMR as a One Health issue. They are currently deciding what strategic project they should focus on. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2020.

In relation to the HPRA's preparations for World Antibiotic Awareness Week, it was suggested that the Authority liaise with the HSE's RESIST Communications manager on social media pieces. They will focus on HPRA work, including links to iNAP objectives.

The HPRA was requested by the HSE AMRIC Clinical Lead for support on a project in train on preserving access to older antimicrobials; the parties will engage further on this work. LN advised there was further work at EU level across all stakeholders on this matter.

EPA

The EPA has established a cross-office unit on AMR to promote EPA and environment actions and address related issues. This focal point for environmental information will be of assistance when drafting of iNAP2 commences later in the year.

A 4-year 'state of the environment' data report covering integrated assessment, pressures and solutions will include a section on AMR. The report will include considerations on antibiotic disposal and a publication date of April 2020 is planned.

On environmental research at EU level assessment of biologically diverse ecosystems is being studied. A Joint Call involving the WaterJPI, OceanJPI and JPIAMR covering three initiatives around aquatic pollutants has been issued and a fund of €500,000 has been allocated by the EPA. The NPSO agreed to ascertain if the Health Research Board would be involved in this particular call (as co-ordinator of JPIAMR).

FSAI

A Codex Alimentarius (International Food Standards Body) 2-year Taskforce on AMR has been established, currently chaired by South Korea. Ireland has contributed to the development of two guidance documents – a revised Code of Practice to contain Food-Borne AMR and a Draft Guidance Document for Food-Borne AMR; these will be discussed at its next meeting in December 2019 for presentation to the Codex Committee. The documents are due to be available in December and will be circulated to this Committee for comment.

10. Update on National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) on CPE

The last meeting of the NPHET-CPE was in September. RL presented an update on current situation and work of NPHET to date - NPSO will circulate slides.

HSE advised that all CPE contacts have now been communicated with and noted the learning on environmental transmission.

11. Communications, including website

The idea of a gov.ie website was proposed. The DoH has moved its content to this new website; DAFM will move its content in 2020. It was noted that this is an opportunity to establish a single point of contact for AMR matters.

The success and breadth of the One Health campaign (including articles and videos) in the Irish Farmer's Journal was recognised by the CVO.

12. AOB

i) Health Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan

RL advised that this Plan has now been published and contains a section on AMR.

MC advised that the RCPI Symposium on Green Health for healthcare professionals was held yesterday, 6th November. Discussion topics included antibiotics in the food chain, infectious diseases and climate change. The need for action to tackle climate change was the focus of the event.

CG provided update on the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan which has also been published. Sustainable food production involving agriculture, forestry and seafood is part of the Plan, encompassing a joined-up approach to increase awareness of AMR and resilience in these sectors, allowing for any necessary adaptation measures to be built into farming methods. A food safety case study on VTEC spread showed a link to water sources and animal manure. The overall approach of the Plan is to promote adaptation measures as opposed to mitigation measures.

ii) SAMHRAI (Strategic AMR & HCAI Group)

Update was provided on the SAMHRAI meeting with Northern Ireland Colleagues. RL advised the meeting that she and a HSE AMRIC representative attended the group's meeting in October last as invited observers; they presented an update on the CPE experience in ROI and NPHET-CPE. Northern Ireland colleagues welcomed the update and are keen to keep regular engagements with the Department/HSE.

iii) Interesting article in the Lancet journal.

A [Lancet article on ESBLs](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(19)30273-7/fulltext) forwarded by KB was circulated to the Committee for their information.
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(19\)30273-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(19)30273-7/fulltext)

iv) Date of Next Meeting

Suggested meeting dates for both scheduled meetings of 2020 will be circulated.

v) Final Note

The CVO closed the meeting by reminding those present that we are moving towards the next phase in Ireland's AMR/ One Health journey with iNAP due for completion in 2020.

CLOSE

Action	Stakeholders
1. Agenda Item 2 - Amend minute of meeting of 3 rd April 2019 as discussed	DAFM
2. Agenda item 2 – Circulate sample GP antibiotic report for info	DoH
3. Agenda Item 5 – Keep Committee updated on IACG work	DoH / DAFM - periodically
4. Agenda Item 5 (cont.) – Circulate slide presentation with update from One health network meeting.	DoH
5. Agenda Item 5 (cont.) – Circulate DG Environment presentation from European Commission AMR One Health Network meeting of 15/10/2019	DAFM
6. Agenda Item 6 – Include acknowledgments section in second One Health Surveillance Report	DoH / DAFM as publishers with input from Subgroup as authors.
7. Agenda Item 9 – Circulate HSE's 4 th RESIST communications newsletter to Committee members	HSE via DoH
8. Agenda Item 9 (cont.) – Re EPA funding for Joint Call on aquatic pollutants- check position on HRB funding of this project	DoH
9. Agenda Item 9 (cont.) – Re Codex Alimentarius Taskforce on AMR – circulate Code of Practice and Draft Guidance Document for Food-Borne AMR	FSAI via DAFM
10. Agenda Item 10 – Circulate slide presentation with update on NPHET-CPE	DoH
11. Agenda Item 10 (cont.) – Circulate link to Lancet article on ESBL provided by KB to Committee	DoH

NPSO
November 2019