

Minutes of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee 's 12th Meeting

Thursday 14th January 2021 – 14:30-16:30

Webex Video Conference hosted by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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

Dr Karen Burns – Consultant Microbiologist – HPSC/HSE (KB)
Dr Niamh O’Sullivan – Consultant Microbiologist, HSE/RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on HCAI (NOS)
Ms Brigid Doherty – Public Representative (BD)
Helen Mulcahy – Health Service Executive (HM)
Dr Kevin Kelleher – HPSC Assistant National Director for Public Health & Child Health (HSE) (KK)
Ms Olive Smyth – Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) (Alternate for Dr Lorraine Nolan – CEO, HPRA) (OS)
Ms Lisa O’Connor – Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) (Alternate for Dr Pamela Byrne – CEO, FSAI) (LOC)
Dr Jonathan Derham – Programme Manager, EPA (Alternate for Dr Laura Burke, Director, EPA) (JD)
Dr Dónal Sammin – Director of Laboratories, DAFM (DS)
Mr Conor Geraghty – President Veterinary Ireland (CG)
Mr David Graham – CEO, Animal Health Ireland (AHI) (DG)
Ms Niamh Muldoon – CEO Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) (NM)
Mr Joe Moffitt – President, Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) (JM)
Mr Tomás Bourke – Animal Health Executive Secretary, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) (Alternate for Mr. Joe Healy, President) (TB)
Mr Paul Smyth – Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) (Alternate for Mr. Lorcan McCabe Deputy President ICMSA) (PS)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms Marita Kinsella – Director, National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) (MK)
Ms Rosarie Lynch – Head of Clinical Effectiveness, AMR & Surveillance, NPSO (RL)
Ms Deirdre O’Halloran – AMR Team, NPSO (DOH)
Ms Sarah Delaney – AMR Team, NPSO (SD)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector (CG)
Ms Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector (JB)
Mr Paul Corkery – Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (PC)
Ms Paula Barry Walsh – Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (DCVO) (PBW)
Mr Rosemarie Slowey – Senior Research Officer (RS)
Mr John Moriarty – Senior Superintending Research Officer (JM)

In attendance: Health Service Executive (HSE), as presenting guests of DoH

Dr Eimear Brannigan – Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Office of HSE Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team (AMRIC), Health Service Executive (EB)

Ms Shirley Keane – Programme Manager, Office of HSE Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team (AMRIC), Health Service Executive (SK)

Apologies

Dr Tony Holohan – Chief Medical Officer (CMO), DoH & Committee Co-Chair (TH)

Prof Martin Cormican – AMRIC National Clinical Lead – HSE (MC)

Dr Margaret O’Sullivan – Chair, National Zoonoses Committee (MOS)

Mr Niall McIntyre – Veterinary Medicines Division, DAFM (NMCI)

1. Welcome and Apologies

MB opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted.

MK recognised that 2020 was an extraordinary year for everyone in society given the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic response across the human health sector has been immense and continues to be felt both at policy and operational levels. It was noted that AMR experts have been heavily involved in COVID-19 response with staff have been redeployed and the nature of usual work having changed.

MK advised that NPSO staff had been redeployed to COVID-19 duties, to support the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) for COVID-19 until Autumn 2020. This has affected work programmes, including the timeline for development of iNAP 2.

As the two meetings of this committee due to take place in 2020 had been deferred, both co-chairs agreed this meeting was an important meeting to plan future actions and progress iNAP2.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 11th Meeting of 7th November 2019, including Actions from Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the last/eleventh meeting were circulated before this meeting and were approved by the committee. Several documents were also circulated before this meeting (as agreed at previous meeting) including an example of the “red/green” preferred antibiotic report sent to GPs by the HSE highlighting GP prescribing practices and including comparison with similar practices; a slide presentation with update from European One Health Network meeting; a slide presentation with update on NPHE-CPE and a Link to 8th HSE Resist Communications Newsletter.

Matters arising from the previous minutes were noted, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their progression, and that work was underway to move these forward in 2021.

- One Health Surveillance Report, with initial focus on completion of the 2nd report.
- The findings of the report of the One Health Country Monitoring Visit by the European Commission / European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) was published in March 2020 and are being used to guide iNAP 2.
- DOH and DAFM have agreed to work on a joint AMR webpage.
- Work to consider the VAT on vaccines remains a key priority.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Members were requested to complete and return the Conflict of Interest forms circulated in advance of the meeting.

4. Update from Human Health perspective

RL in conjunction with EB and SK presented an overview of activities in the human health sector including progress achieved to date under iNAP1 and the approach to iNAP2. The slides will be circulated to Committee members. (AP1). Items covered included:

- Examples of progress under the 5 Strategic Objectives of iNAP 2017-2020
- Investment and new developments under iNAP 1.
- Overview of the ECDC One Health Country Visit in November 2019, including One Health findings.

- Overview of impact of COVID-19 on the health service to date.
- Investment and planning for iNAP2.

Some highlights were: Success of GP project prescriber feedback initiative on preferred antibiotics ('red / green' initiative); update to guidelines on antibiotic surgical prophylaxis; a suite of core elearning modules for healthcare staff on infection prevention and control (IPC) and antimicrobial stewardship which went live in December 2020; other work is underway to promote awareness and use of these resources.

Some specific HSE achievements in 2020 were 147 COVID-19 IPC Guidance Documents and 32 Webinars; the PPS on antimicrobial use in HSE older persons facilities; and the pilot for prevention of peripheral and central venous catheter related infection being rolled out.

There has been significant redeployment of staff combined with an increased demand on IPC, changes in methods of healthcare delivery, residential care settings and management of disease trajectory on the use of antimicrobials. COVID-19 has also offered a new focus on IPC at a wider societal level. Learning of the COVID-19 and CPE Public Health Emergencies is an important component to consider in iNAP 2 and some of this is still emerging.

Development of iNAP2 had been planned for 2020 but the project plan was revised due to the COVID-19 response. However, this has not affected progression of work on IPC and AMS and additional investment new developments and capacity building due to COVID-19 continue to be progresses. As at end of Q3 2020 HSE was 78% complete or on schedule for the AMRIC Implementation Plan actions.

5. Update from Animal Health perspective

CG gave a presentation to the committee titled "**iNAP1 – Successes, Learnings, Challenges and Progress to iNAP2**". CG highlighted that progress achieved under iNAP1 would not have been possible without collaboration between stakeholders in animal health sector committee. The engagement and collaboration by the AHIC stakeholders resulted in 29 actions being completed currently of the 54 contained in iNAP, with 24 actions ongoing. Behavioural change was recognised as a continuing challenge to AMU reduction strategies. The importance of delivering consistent messaging around AMR was a key learning under iNAP1.

Key recommendations made in report from ECDC/DG Sante One Health country visit will be followed through in next iteration of iNAP. There will be greater ambition in iNAP2 with indicators of progress to include indicator outputs and outcomes for each project/action. Development of digital veterinary prescription system will be a key output under iNAP2. Presentation slides will be circulated to committee members (AP2) JD suggested the quantity of antibiotics used in fish farming should be looked at under iNAP2. CG advised that the uptake of vaccines in fish has greatly reduced the amount of antibiotics being used in fish farming and in reality the use of antiparasitics in fish, in particular to treat sea lice is a far bigger issue.

MB added that a colleague from the Marine Institute has recently joined iNAP AHIC and will advance the development of prudent guidance regarding use of antimicrobials in fish.

6. Update from Environmental Protection Authority

JD provided an update on behalf of the EPA, and a briefing in addition to presentation slides and EPA 2020 Water Watch List will be shared with the committee (AP3). Update was given on EPA research funding, communications and knowledge transfer initiatives. Regulatory actions, and environmental sampling and analysis completed for the EU Water Framework Directive was also discussed. Further information regarding water analysis is to be shared. Water sampling locations will be revised as informed by research.

Waste management, in particular the Disposal of Unused Medicines Responsibly (DUMP) scheme run in 2018 and 2020 was highlighted. The recently published EPA national waste categorization survey findings were discussed, and the next iteration of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan is under development.

A report detailing an assessment of the 5 years of the pilot Farm hazardous waste collection scheme has been prepared by EPA and circulated to the Antimicrobial Disposal Sub-Group members. Responsible disposal of AMs was highlighted as a vital element of antimicrobial stewardship. MB commended work that has been done to date in environmental sector which was noted in ECDC One Health Country Visit report.

7. Update from Committee Subgroup on Disposal of Antibiotics

Participation in the subgroup by human health colleagues has not been possible due to COVID-19 response. Currently a proposal is being developed by DAFM to run a pilot scheme across 3 civic amenity sites. This proposal will be teased out further with the antibiotic disposal subgroup. MB added that the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) have indicated they have guidance in relation to medicines waste and can input to the discussions.

MK added that health service has not been able to contribute as much as it would have liked to disposal subgroup in light of current pandemic but further engagement is important to ensure safe medicines practices and that antibiotics are part of the wider medicines context. MB advised that stakeholders from animal health sector are committed to supporting this initiative.

8. Development of iNAP 2

MB advised that CG had already covered animal health sector direction regarding iNAP2 under agenda item 5. The need to pick up on recommendations made in the One Health Country Visit Report in iNAP2 was reiterated. MB advised that while much progress was made under Strategic Objective 1 of iNAP in terms of raising knowledge and awareness of AMR, more ambition is needed around setting quantitative targets for AMU under iNAP2.

RL updated the group on progress on human health side; the iNAP2 project plan has been worked up with the HSE submitting actions and engagement with other stakeholders is currently underway. Actions from iNAP1 which need to be continued into the next iteration of iNAP are being identified.

Work is progressing to develop a joint DoH/DAFM AMR webpage and the migration of DAFM webpage to gov.ie site will facilitate this.

MB posed a question regarding a possible date for the launch of iNAP2 document. RL advised that late April would be a realistic target for a final draft of iNAP2 and suggested that both departments should collaborate to identify actions with a One Health focus. MB advised that actions under iNAP2 will commence prior to launch of document.

9. Future role of the Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee

MB requested feedback from the group regarding the future direction of this committee and areas for improvement in terms of efficiency within the next 4-6 weeks (AP4). MK added that it is timely to review format of the committee as iNAP1 draws to a close and iNAP2 is about to commence. MB suggested that Terms of Reference of this committee should be recirculated to the group and asked committee members to submit their views. (AP5).

10. AOB

- Publication of Ireland's second One Health surveillance report on AMR and antibiotic usage has been delayed due to COVID-19 and it will be a joint objective to advance this as soon as possible, in addition to commencing work on Ireland's third One Health report.
- The launch of a European research call worth €24.9 million specifically focussing on tackling AMR was welcomed. RS suggested that the 2019 EFSA scientific opinion document regarding the harmonised monitoring of AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food should be circulated to the group (AP6).
- JD reminded the group that having a National Hazardous Waste Management plan will be a statutory requirement under EU legislation and a public consultation on National Hazardous Waste Management plan will be launched in Q2/Q3 2021.
- VAT on vaccines proposal remains on agendas of both DAFM and DoH and MK reiterated DoH support for the progression this issue.

11. Date of Next Meeting

May 2021 was suggested as a date for the next meeting ahead of the launch of iNAP2. The date for the next scheduled meeting of 2021 will be circulated. (AP7)

Final Note

The CVO closed the meeting by acknowledging the contributions made by all presenters and thanked everyone for their participation.

CLOSE

Action	Stakeholders
1. Agenda Item 4 – Circulate slide presentation with update from human health perspective.	DoH
2. Agenda item 5 – Circulate slide presentation with update from animal health perspective.	DAFM
3. Agenda Item 6 – Circulate slide presentation with update from EPA in addition to 2020 Water Watch list and briefing note.	EPA
4. Agenda item 9 – committee members to submit feedback regarding the future direction of this committee and areas for improvement in terms of improved efficiency within the next 4-6 weeks	All committee members
5. Agenda Item 9 – Terms of Reference of this committee to be recirculated to members	DAFM
6. Agenda Item 10 – Circulate 2019 EFSA scientific opinion document regarding the harmonised monitoring of AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food.	DAFM
7. Agenda Item 11 – circulate date of next meeting	DAFM