

Minutes of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee's 14th Meeting

Thursday 10th March 2022 – 2:30pm – 4:30pm

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

Attendance

Chairs

Dr Martin Blake – Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine & Committee Co-Chair (MB)

Ms Rachel Kenna – Chief Nursing Officer- Department of Health & Committee Co-Chair (RK)

Committee Members

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

Dr Niamh O'Sullivan- Chairperson - HSE/RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on HCAI (NOS)

Ms Brigid Doherty – Public Representative (BD)

Ms Anna Daly – Irish Farmers Association (IFA) (Alternate for Mr Joe Healy, President, IFA) (TB)

Dr Jonathan Derham – Programme Manager, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Dr Aisling O'Connor – Scientific Officer Research, EPA (AOC)

Ms Lisa O'Connor – Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) (Alternate for Dr Pamela Byrne, CEO FSAI) (LOC)

Ms Olive Smyth – Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) (Alternate for Dr Lorraine Nolan, CEO, HPRA) (OS)

Mr Paul Smyth – Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) (Alternate for Mr Lorcan McCabe, Deputy President ICMSA) (JE)

Ms Niamh Muldoon – Chief Executive Officer, Veterinary Council of Ireland (NM)

Mr David Graham – Chief Executive Officer, Animal Health Ireland (DG)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms Rosarie Lynch - Head of Clinical Effectiveness and AMR Unit, National Patient Safety Office (RL)

Dr Laura Dooley - AMR Team, National Patient Safety Office (LD)

Mr Austin Cullen- AMR Team, National Patient Safety Office (AC)

Ms Sarah Delaney – AMR Team, National Patient Safety Office (SD)

Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM)

Ms Patricia Reilly - Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (DCVO) – Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine & Committee Co-Chair (PR)

Dr Dónal Sammin – Director of Laboratories (DS)

Dr Marie McElroy – Senior Superintending Research Officer (MMCE)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector (CG)

Ms Rosemarie Slowey – Senior Research Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (RS)

Ms Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector (JB)

Ms Zara Conlon- Veterinary Inspector (ZC)

In attendance: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Dr Eimear Brannigan - Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Deputy Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team (AMRIC) (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)

Professor Martin Cormican – HSE AMRIC Clinical Lead (MC)

Dr Paul Corkery – Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector DAFM (PC)

1. Welcome and Apologies

MB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies have been provided for the following members:

- Dr Tony Holohan (CMO) Co-Chair – DOH
- Professor Martin Cormican – HSE AMRIC Clinical Lead (MC)
- Dr Paul Corkery – Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (PC)

The attendance of Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer at this, her first meeting of the Committee was acknowledged. Patricia Reilly, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer was also welcomed to her first meeting.

It was noted that Ms Marita Kinsella, former Director of National Patient Safety Office, Department of Health had moved on and her contribution and participation in the Committee was acknowledged.

It was acknowledged that this was the first meeting since the publication of iNAP2. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the HSE cyber-attack were also acknowledged.

2. Minutes

Minutes from 13th Meeting of the Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee were adopted.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest forms are to be circulated to Committee Members and should be considered and returned to the Secretariat (DoH/DAFM) on completion.

Action 1: Secretariat to circulate COI forms and members to complete and return.

4. iNAP2 Update

An overview of One Health sector specific actions in iNAP2 was provided in three presentations.

RL gave an overview from the Human Health perspective on behalf of DoH.

Key aspects included:

- Acknowledgement of the publication of iNAP2 in November 2021.
- Acknowledgement of the achievements under iNAP1 including the establishment of the HSE AMRIC team.
- The HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Implementation Plan 2019 and 2020 was key to delivering on iNAP1.
- An update on the National Public Health Emergency on CPE was delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic. It is intended to step down the NPHET on CPE this year.
- Findings from the Economic Burden of AMR 2021 Report were presented.
 - Over 7,400 resistant infections occurred across all public acute hospitals in Ireland in 2019 which resulted in an estimated 215 deaths

- Treatment of these infections resulted in €12m in additional costs to the HSE across the 16 infections studied (likely to be a significant underestimation).
- The Committee members were updated on the international discussion around Point of Care testing. HIQA published a Health Technology Assessment of CRP Point of Care Testing for Department of Health in May 2019.
- An overview of how iNAP2 was developed was given, incorporating a patient- and people- focused plan that also incorporates learnings from the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- The HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Action Plan 2022-2025 was published on the same day and aligns to iNAP2.
- A mid-term review of the iNAP2 human health actions is planned for 2023 to allow for any further refinement and prioritisation.

JB provided the Committee with updates in relation to ongoing actions in the animal health sector with an overview under each of the five strategic actions of iNAP2.

Key aspects included:

- DAFM AMR Section and DAFM National Disease Control Centre collaborated to organise a series of podcasts and webinars to mark World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and national Animal Health Awareness Week Nov 18th-24th 2021.
- Veterinary Ireland's Companion Animal section (VICAS) have joined the Animal Health Implementation Committee to progress iNAP2 actions in the companion/small animal sector.
- The National Veterinary Prescribing System (NVPS) was launched on Jan 31st 2022 under a phased approach.
- A document outlining Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Equines is in the final stages of development.
- An update was provided on the new Regulation (EU)2019/6 on Veterinary Medicinal Products and (EU)2019/4 on Medicated Feed. The new legislation includes restrictions on prescribing practices, in particular the use of antimicrobials for prophylactic and metaphylactic use. There will also be a further implementing act which will include a list of certain antimicrobials reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans.

AOC updated the meeting on the environmental sector actions.

Key aspects included:

- An overview was provided of activities undertaken in the environmental sector to promote AMR awareness as part of WAAW including press releases, social media posts and television interviews.
- An update on the Water Framework Directive Watchlist was provided- there were no exceedances noted for 2021. The possibility of doing additional AM analyses beyond what is currently required by legislation was mentioned.
- A recent publication on Enterobacteriaceae in farm wetlands as part of the AREST project was highlighted.
- A National Collection Scheme for farm hazardous waste is in development.
- An EPA *Gap Analysis Report on research needs to understand the environmental dimension of AMR* was recently published.

Action 2: The slides from these presentations will be circulated.

5. Overview of Findings from 2021 National AMR Surveillance Programme –Rosemarie Slowey DAFM

RS presented preliminary results of official AMR surveillance in animals and food from 2021.

- EU- wide surveillance in 2021 focussed on AMR in *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *coli* and *E. coli* from pigs and beef.
- Resistance levels in *Salmonella* have decreased 10% from the previous year of data.
- Resistance levels in *Campylobacter* and commensal *E. coli* as well as ESBL prevalence in pigs were slightly lower in 2021 in vs 2019.
- ESBL prevalence in pork and beef was extremely low.
- Surveillance trends indicated some improvement in resistance levels in the pig sector, which is encouraging.

Action 3: The slides from this presentation will be circulated.

6. One Health Network Meeting 25th-26th January 2022

DG SANTE hosted a two-day virtual EU AMR One Health Network meeting in January 2022. LD updated the Committee on the human health discussions.

Key aspects included:

- The Commission announced a new policy initiative on AMR that will build on the implementation of the 2017 EU AMR Action Plan.
- There is a current review underway of MS's National Action Plans. Initial review findings noted an insufficient One Health approach, and a lack of the environmental dimension in some action plans. It was noted that the review of Ireland's NAP is based on iNAP1 and not iNAP2.
- There is a revamping of AMR One Health Network underway.
- Updates were provided on the EU4Health Programme (€7m for AMR/IPC), JAMRAI2 (€50m), Horizon Europe (Cluster 1 €8.25bn), Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), The Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe (pull incentives), Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, and the Pandemics Treaty.

ZC updated the Committee on the animal health updates.

Key aspects included:

- The scientific and MS opinion on AMR output indicators in the context of the latest Joint Interagency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) Report was presented. MS highlighted the need for new AMR indicators to include morbidity and mortality. There was MS consensus on the need for targets, but also consensus on the need for the correct indicators to be set first.
- Two Codex Alimentarius texts on AMR were recently updated: new guidelines for the monitoring and surveillance of AMR and a revised guidance on containment of foodborne AMR.

AOC updated the Committee on the Environmental updates.

Key aspects included:

- The Commission has highlighted the relevance of AMR in several new pieces of environmental legislation, such as the Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Chemical Strategy, and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.
- The strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment was discussed including specific actions on AMR.
- The priority substances list under the Water framework Directive is being revised as well as the list of substances in the Groundwater Directive to include antimicrobials. The watch list has also been updated and will include more antibiotics.

- An evaluation of The Industrial Emissions Directive is planned.
- AMR monitoring at wastewater treatment plants was highlighted. Currently there is no obligation to monitor AMR in wastewater treatment plants, at point of receiving wastewater or at the outlet.
- The evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive is ongoing. AMR will be considered in the review.

Action 4: Slides to be shared following meeting.

7. One Health Ministerial Conference 7th March 2022

CG provided an update on discussions that took place at the high-level One Health Ministerial Conference on 7th March 2022. The objectives of the Conference included supporting the Commission to strengthen MS One Health approach to tackling AMR and to identify unmet needs at a European level. Perspectives were shared from various institutions including the European Commission, ECDC, EMA, EFSA, WHO, OIE, FAO, OECD. The ten priorities for action identified at the Conference were shared with the Committee.

Action 5: The OECD Report on the economic impact of AMR on healthcare to be circulated

8. One Health Surveillance Report

LD provided an update on the One Health Surveillance Report. Work on the content from 2017/2018/2019 was nearing completion in early 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cyber-attack this work was paused. It was noted that there will be gaps in the Human Health data for 2020/2021 due to the above also. A request for tender was issued for compilation and completion of the report but no applications were received and DoH can now award the tender directly. LD asked Committee members to inform the secretariat of any suitable providers.

9. VAT on Vaccines

CG advised that a zero rate on animal vaccines could potentially be available from January 1st 2025, and a range of policy options will be presented to the Minister for Finance in the interim. Currently DAFM is completing an updated business case in relation to the cost of removing VAT on vaccines. DAFM has also identified to the Department of Finance that competition is impacted in relation to injectable versus oral vaccines

10. AOB

RL highlighted to the Committee that DoH and DAFM hoped to host an AMR Event in the coming months to acknowledge the publication of iNAP2.

MB thanked everyone for their participation and all the work that had been done since the last meeting. MB acknowledged the beginning of encouraging improvements in AMR animal surveillance data presented by RS today.

MB commented that iNAP2 is about building on progress from iNAP1 and setting targets to demonstrate across the board that we are reducing usage and resistance. RK acknowledged that a significant amount of work is underway across all sectors regarding AMR.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3rd November 2022. Invitations to be issued by DoH as they will be hosting meeting.

Also, a date for the diary is European Antibiotic Awareness Day which will be on Friday 18th November 2022.

12. Actions

	Actions	Organisation
1	Secretariat to circulate COI forms and members to complete and return.	DoH / DAFM / members
2	One Health iNAP2 slides on behalf of DoH & DAFM to Committee	DAFM
3	One Health iNAP2 relevant links on behalf of EPA to Committee	DAFM
4	One Health Network Meeting slides to Committee Members	DAFM
5	The OECD Report on the economic impact of AMR on healthcare to be circulated	DAFM