

# Minutes

## National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

### Department of Health

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 13:30 – 15.00, Virtual Meeting

#### Members Present:

**Professor Gerry Fitzpatrick**

**Chair, National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC)**

**Ms Christina Donnelly**

Patient Representation

**Ms Karen Greene**

Office of the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO),  
Department of Health

**Mr Donal Clancy**

Health Insurance Council

**Ms Collette Tully**

National Office for Clinical Audit

**Dr Siobhán Ní Bhríain**

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO),  
Health Service Executive (HSE)

**Ms Michelle O'Neill**

Health Information and Quality Authority  
(HIQA)

**Dr Cathal O'Keeffe**

State Claims Agency

**Mr Richard Lodge**

Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum

**Mr Gary Kiernan**

Mental Health Commission

#### Apologies:

**Kate O'Flaherty**

National Patient Safety Office (NPSO)

**Professor Anne Marie Brady**

Nursing and Midwifery Education Bodies

**Dr Elaine Breslin (now retired)**

Health Products Regulatory Authority

**Dr Geraldine Shaw**

Office Nursing and Midwifery Services, HSE

**Professor Colette Cowan**

Forum of Hospital Groups CEOs

**Dr Máiréad O'Driscoll**

Health Research Board

**Mr Pat Creedon**

Acute Division, Department of Health

#### Secretariat – Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), Department of Health:

**Eimear Allen**

Head of Clinical Effectiveness and Antimicrobial Resistance Unit, NPSO

**Deirdre Holland, Marion Cullinan, Paul Dunphy, Luise Redmond**

Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), NPSO

#### In Attendance:

n/a

#### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed all members to the last meeting of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) in 2023. All those present were invited to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Apologies were noted as listed above.

#### 2. Conflict of interest declarations (NCEC members)

With the circulated invitation the members had been requested to complete an e-form identifying if they had any Conflict of Interest. In addition, the members present at the meeting were invited to

identify if they had any Conflict of Interest and a verbal pause held for same. No verbal declarations were made. The Chair reminded the members to submit annual declaration forms for Conflict of Interest.

### **3. Minutes**

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The minutes of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were reviewed. NCEC members agreed that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meetings.

### **4. Matters Arising**

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CEU noted further paper on NCEC Prioritisation and Quality Assurance Analysis processes had been circulated to Committee members, for information, in line with action #1 on previous minutes.

### **5. NCEC Strategic Review**

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- a) CEU circulated NCEC Deliberative Review document prior to the meeting as one of several outputs which together will form the strategic review of the NCEC. It was noted that it is the intention of the CEU to develop and present recommendations based on these outputs to the next NCEC meeting. Comments were invited from the Committee on the document.
- b) There was discussion around the importance of language used in NCEC documentation, including the requirement to adapt the use of plain English to ensure documents are accessible to all committee members. This should also be borne in mind for further outputs from the NCEC strategic review.

### **6. HRB-CICER**

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Paper on Research Gaps Register presented by Shelley O'Neill on behalf of HRB-CICER. There was broad agreement from the Committee that it would be helpful to adopt the PICO Framework to characterise the structure of research gaps identified during the guideline development process. A decision was made that the NCEC NCG template would be updated to include a section for description of the research gaps identified during guideline development. CEU will also investigate the possibility of including a high-level reference to the research gaps identified through the work of HRB-CICER with the Guideline Development Groups in the next iteration of the Department's *Statement of Priorities for Health and Social Care Research*. It was acknowledged that some of the options outlined for consideration were beyond the remit of the NCEC and will require further discussion with relevant stakeholders.

**Action 1** NCEC NCG template to be updated to include a section for description of the research gaps identified during guideline development.

**Action 2** CEU to investigate the possibility of including a high-level reference to the research gaps identified through the work of HRB-CICER with the Guideline Development Groups in the next iteration of the Department's Statement of Priorities for Health and Social Care Research.

### **7. Overview of Current Work Programme**

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- a) CEU circulated a list of National Clinical Guidelines and National Clinical Audits published and in development in advance of the meeting.
- b) CEU gave an update on recent developments with regards to the following NCEC NCGs:
  - 1. No. 17 Adult Type 1 Diabetes: update paper on contextualisation project (circulated in advance) was presented by Marion Cullinan. The committee agreed that the rapid review update approach was most suitable for the guideline update. It was suggested that the

updated guideline should consider making note of the importance of transitions of care between paediatric and adult services. The Guideline Development Group should also provide supporting evidence on the proposed implementation of the guideline with their submission.

2. No. 14 Management of an Acute Asthma Attack in Adults: under review.
- c) The importance of all areas of the healthcare system, private and public, adhering to NCEC NCGs was noted.

**Action 3** Decision paper to be drafted for sending to Chair on the Diabetes decision.

## 8. AOB

- a) The committee discussed alternates attending committee meetings. It was agreed that, per the Modus Operandi of NCEC, the use of alternates should only be in exceptional circumstances e.g. when an agenda item cannot be progressed without a representative of that particular organisation.
- b) The retirement of Dr Elaine Breslin from the committee was acknowledged. The Chair recognised her invaluable contribution over the years to the committee.
- c) The conclusion of Ms Christina Donnelly's two terms on the committee was noted. The Chair and the committee members present thanked Ms Donnelly for her dedication to the committee and the unique perspective that she had brought as a patient representative.

## 9. NCEC meeting dates 2024

Proposed NCEC meeting dates were presented by CEU. Chair suggested at least one meeting be in-person every year.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in person.

**Action 4:** Dates to be emailed to all members.

### Agreed actions:

No.	Summary	Responsible person/s
1.	NCEC NCG template to be updated to include a section for description of the research gaps identified during guideline development.	CEU
2.	Investigate the possibility of including a high-level reference to the research gaps identified through the work of HRB-CICER with the Guideline Development Groups in the next iteration of the Department's Statement of Priorities for Health and Social Care Research.	CEU
3.	Decision paper to be drafted for sending to Chair on the Diabetes decision.	CEU
4.	Proposed dates for 2024 NCEC meetings to be circulated.	CEU