# National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) for Carbapenem-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE)

## Minutes of Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>02 November 2017 at 2-3:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dr Tony Holohan, CMO, Department of Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Members in Attendance | Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan, Director, National Patient Safety Office (NPSO), Department of Health (DOH)  
Ms Siobhan Kennan (on behalf of Fionnuala Duffy), Acute Hospitals Policy Division, (DOH)  
Ms Sandra Walsh, Primary Care Division, (DOH)  
Mr John Connaghan, Chief Operations Officer (HSE)  
Mr Patrick Lynch, National Director, Quality Assurance and Verification Division (HSE)  
Dr Kevin Kelleher, Director (acting), HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)  
Dr Stephanie O’Keeffe, National Director, Health Wellbeing Division, (HSE)  
Mr Brendan Lawlor (on behalf of Mr Tom McGuinness) Emergency Management & National Ambulance Service, (HSE) |
| Apologies           | N/A                           |
| Secretariat and in attendance | Ms Deirdre Hyland, Ms Sarah Treleaven, Patient Safety Surveillance Unit, NPSO, DOH  
Ms Pamela Carter, Press Office, DOH |

### 1. Welcome and apologies

### 2. Conflicts of Interest declarations

All members were requested to submit signed forms at the meeting.  
It was noted that this will be a standing agenda item for verbal update.

### 3. Structure and arrangements for future meetings

Weekly meeting, every Thursday, 11.30am in the Department of Health will be held and frequency to be reviewed at the later date.

#### a. Background and Purpose of NPHET

- CPE has been an on-going challenge to health service since 2009 however incidence and regional spread is evident. We are on track to have over 30% more newly diagnosed CPE patients in 2017 than in 2016.
- Issue of HCAIs and AMR have been on the HSE Leadership team and Department’s management board agenda for some time
• This issue has been brought to the attention of the Department via letters from HIQA (dated 06 October 2017) and the DG (dated 04 October 2017).
• Purpose of the NPHET is to bring together the DoH and HSE to enhance the national response to CPE as a public health priority/emergency.
• Work of NPHET will be in the context of Ireland’s National Action Plan on AMR launched last week

b. Terms of reference
Consideration as to the word “direction” in section 3.1 of the Terms of reference was discussed and a point of clarification in the terms of reference will be considered.

Action 1: Full membership HSE officials on the NPHET will be considered. A full list of proposed NPHET HSE members will be sent by the DG, HSE to the CMO.

Patient Representations:
Action 2: DoH will seek nomination from Patient Focus for NPHET.

Action 3: HSE will identify a nomination from Patients for Patient Safety or other appropriate patient group.

c. Expert Group – potential membership, chair and secretariat
Potential Membership and Chair was discussed. Role of the group will be to provide NPHET with expert advice as required.

Agreed: Secretariat will be provided by HPSC given their experience and expertise.
Agreed: The group acknowledged the role of the HSE National Clinical Lead for HCAI, as key member of the Expert Group.
Agreed: Group will likely include the following:
• HSE HCAI/AMR Clinical Lead
• Consultant Microbiologist
• Specialist in Public Health Medicine
• Infection Prevention Control Nurse
• Surveillance Scientist
• Clinical/Antimicrobial Pharmacist
• General Practitioner
• Environmental Health Officer
• International expert on infection prevention and control
• Senior Operations Management Expert

Action 4: DoH to provide HSE with proposed outline of membership of the Expert Group.
**Action 5:** The HSE will propose the full terms of reference, chair and membership for the expert group to the NPHET for their approval.

4. **Surveillance and monitoring**
   
   **a. Presentation and regional breakdown (CHO/HG) of information**
   
   Dr Holohan noted that there is large variation in the information currently collected.

   **Action 6:** Department of Health to consider adding CPE colonisation to list of notifiable diseases.

   **b. Reporting mechanisms and organisation(s)**
   
   - Currently there are at least two bodies reporting on the CPE incidence nationally (HPSC quarterly reports – latest Q1207 and Galway CRE Reference Lab). Gaps in surveillance systems exist.
   - Case definitions, frequency of reporting, level of report detail and timeliness of reporting vary. Likely data collection methods differ.
   - Variation in screening and surveillance of patients for CPE exists across hospitals and sub-acute settings.
   - The committee discussed the various recommendations and standards across a number of documents including HSE CPE Outbreak and Management Response Plan, HIQA Hygiene Audits, HIQA AMR Stewardship Report.

   **Action 7:** HSE to provide a report on the current quality and periodicity of CPE reporting including quantitative descriptions of surveillance and practices for referral of specimens to the CPE National Reference Laboratory, Galway.

   **Action 8:** HSE to provide a report on assessment of response requirements and capacity for various care settings.

   **c. Public health reports, microbiological reports and environmental reports**
   
   The CMO indicated that reports across all three areas are required to get the full picture on containment of CPE in Ireland. The format and frequency of these reports will be discussed at future meetings. Reports will be required at national, hospital group, hospital and CHO levels.

5. **Review of the current situation**
   
   **a. Last week’s actions**
   
   Declaration of CPE as a public health emergency and establishment of committee.

   **b. Current Situation**
   
   **Action 9:** HSE to provide a report on the status of implementation of the CPE Outbreak and Management Response Plan (National Taskforce for HCAI/AMR, March 2017).
Action 10: HSE to provide a report on the status and stage of implementation of national protocols in relation to the screening, surveillance and management of CPE. Protocols to be provided to the NPHET.

c. Next week’s actions
Completion of actions due.

6. Communications
   a. Key stakeholders communications
      Agreed: That a communications plan will be required.
      Dr Mac Lellan requested nomination of a HSE communications liaison person who will link in with the Department of Health Press Office.

      Action 11: The HSE to confirm if this will be HSE HCAI Communications Manager.

      A single point of contact to co-ordinate information from the HSE to the NPHET and Department was discussed. There will be a need to draw up a schedule of information to be received, format and timings in advance of NPHET meetings.

      Action 12: The HSE to confirm the nominee of the single point of contact to co-ordinate information from the HSE to the Department and NPHET.

   b. Press release
      The CMO informed the group that the Department will issue a press release after the meeting.

   c. Website
      The CMO informed the group that the Department of Health has set up a dedicated page on our website. Meeting documentation including: Minutes, agendas, decisions, press releases will be published there.

7. National and international notifications
   a. Government Taskforce and other national bodies
      The CMO updated the group regarding communications to date:
      • Early Warning Report sent to Taoiseach’s Office
      • CMO has updated the Government Task Force (GTF) and an update will be provided at their meeting on 08 November 2017.
      • Contact with the Northern Ireland and UK CMOs was made by CMO.

   b. EU Bodies
      No notifications have taken place to date. Will review EU notification requirements (ECDC)
c. Global Bodies

No notifications have taken place to date. Will review notification requirements (WHO – notification decision instrument).

HPSC may wish to update the WHO for information purposes.

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th November 2017 at 11:30am in Hawkins House.

Apologies in advance from S O’Keeffe. J Connaghan will seek to attend part of the meeting via teleconference.

Table of Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Full membership of HSE officials on the NPHET will be considered. A full list of NPHET HSE members will be sent by the DG, HSE to the CMO.</td>
<td>J Connaghan</td>
<td>10/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 DoH will seek nomination from Patient Focus for NPHET.</td>
<td>K Mac Lellan</td>
<td>8/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 HSE will identify a nomination from Patients for Patient Safety or other appropriate patient group.</td>
<td>P Lynch</td>
<td>8/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 DoH to provide HSE with proposed outline of membership of the Expert Group.</td>
<td>K Mac Lellan</td>
<td>03/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The HSE will propose the full terms of reference and membership and chair for the expert group to the NPHET for their approval.</td>
<td>K Kelleher</td>
<td>10/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Department of Health to consider adding CPE colonisation to list of notifiable diseases.</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 HSE to provide a report on the current quality and periodicity of CPE reporting including quantitative descriptions of surveillance and practices for referral of specimens to the CPE National Reference Laboratory, Galway.</td>
<td>K Kelleher</td>
<td>17/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 HSE to provide a report on assessment of response requirements and capacity for various care setting.</td>
<td>S O’Keeffe</td>
<td>10/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 HSE to provide a report on the status of implementation of the CPE Outbreak and Management Response Plan (National Taskforce for HCAI/AMR, March 2017).</td>
<td>J Connaghan</td>
<td>10/11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>HSE to provide a report on the status and stage of implementation of national protocols in relation to the screening, surveillance and management of CPE. Protocols to be provided to the NPHEF.</td>
<td>S O’Keeffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The HSE to confirm if this will be HSE HCAI Communications Manager.</td>
<td>S O’Keeffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The HSE to confirm the nominee of the single point of contact to co-ordinate information from the HSE to the Department and NPHEF</td>
<td>J Connaghan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>