

Minutes of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee Meeting

9th Meeting – Wednesday 7th November 2018 – 2.30pm

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

Attendance

Chairs

Dr Tony Holohan – Chief Medical Officer (CMO) – Department of Health (DoH) (TH)

Dr Martin Blake – Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) (MB)

Committee Members

Prof Martin Cormican – HSE HCAI National Lead – HSE (Teleconferenced in) (MC)

Dr Karen Burns – Consultant Microbiologist – HPSC/HSE (KB)

Dr Kevin Kelleher – Acting Director HPSC/Asst National Director Health Protection HSE (KK)

Dr Dónal Sammin – Director of Laboratories – DAFM Laboratories (DS)

Mr Tomás Bourke – Irish Farmers Association (TB)

Mr Pat McCormack – ICMSA (PMcC)

Mr Gerard Neary – Veterinary Ireland (GN)

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

Dr Aisling O’Connor – EPA (AOC)

Dr Pamela Byrne – FSAI (PB)

Dr Niamh O’Sullivan – HSE/RCPI Clinical Advisory Group on HCAI (NOS)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms Rosarie Lynch – Head of Patient Safety Surveillance – NPSO (RL)

Ms Sarah Treleaven – Patient Safety Surveillance – NPSO

Ms Sarah Delaney – Patient Safety Surveillance – NPSO

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Ms Paula Barry Walsh – Deputy CVO – DAFM (PBW)

Mr Rob Doyle – Head of Division – DAFM (RD)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector – DAFM (CG)

Dr Zara Conlon – Veterinary Inspector – DAFM (ZC)

Dr Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector – DAFM (JB)

Mr Niall McIntyre – Veterinary Medicines Division – DAFM

Apologies

Mr TJ Maher – IFA

Mr David Graham – AHI

Dr Lorraine Nolan – HPRA

Ms Eithne Barron – DoH

Mr Gerry Neary - VI

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 15 March 2018

The Minutes of the last meeting were circulated prior to this meeting and were approved with no amendments.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest Forms circulated to all members. A pause for verbal declarations was held. KK made a verbal declaration (relative employed by a related industry) which was noted by the committee and all were happy to proceed.

4. Updated Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee

The updated Terms of Reference were circulated with meeting papers. They were agreed and accepted by the committee. They will be published on the website.

There were no proposed additions to the Membership of the Committee. Where required, letters to update will be issued.

5. Update on One Health Actions

DOH provided an update on the One Health Event 2018 planned for 20th November 2018 in the Dublin Convention Centre.

- Draft Programme and Overview Document were circulated at the meeting.
- The theme and format of the day was informed by the discussions and input at the last Interdepartmental committee meeting. The final title is *One Health 2018: A Joint Approach for Healthcare and Veterinary Professionals*. The target audience is healthcare professions and vets, in particular prescribers.
- The event will mark European Antibiotic Awareness Day, is in line with iNAP objectives and is jointly hosted by DAH, DAFM and HSE with support from the EPA. There are 190 registrations to date so still some spaces available.
- The 3 Keynote Speakers are now confirmed. Dr David Tisdall will present on an agriculture perspective, Prof Dilip Nathwani from the health perspective and Prof Pete Lunn from the ESRI on the concept of behavioural change.
- Committee members were encouraged to publicise the event with the relevant stakeholders from their organisations and to register early for the event.

DAFM provided an update on the documents that DAFM would be distributing at the Event:

- VCI Ethical Use of Antibiotics
- HP CIAs licensed and sold
- Policy on Highest Priority CIAs

In particular, the CIA list developed by DAFM was highlighted. This categorises antibiotics in three categories and there are limitations according to category. Key points are the restriction of macrolides, the inclusion of the fluoroquinolones and colistin in category 2 with a requirement for culture and sensitivity to be done and that carbapenems were not permitted in veterinary medicine.

The recent warnings and restrictions on the use in humans of quinolone / fluoroquinolones was noted.

6. One Health Surveillance Report

MOS and DS updated the group on behalf of the One Health Surveillance Report Subgroup. This Report is the first of its kind and was welcomed by the committee. It will also be important to raise awareness that such data is now available. It is based on 2016 data. It was acknowledged that there was very good engagement from stakeholders and across all members of the Subgroup who contributed to the preparation of the Report. There are plans to present the report at a meeting of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine in Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) next month.

The Report as signed off by the Subgroup was submitted to both DOH and DAFM in September 2018 and is a key deliverable under iNAP. Page 12 of the document is a summary of the overall findings and list of current gaps.

The Report brought together patterns in human and animal consumption. However, there is a need to develop more robust data. There are international models e.g. DANMap which could provide a framework for future Reports.

It was noted that a key gap is that prescriber level data is required but not available and the ICT challenges in this were acknowledged. Need to consider incorporation of environmental data in future reports.

AOC confirmed that the EPA are doing some surveillance in certain areas.

The CMO welcomed the completion of the Report and outlined that

- The Report is a tremendous start and thanked the Subgroup for their hard work and commitment and in particular the Chairs (MOS and DS) for their leadership.
- The Report has outlined a number of gaps that will need to be addressed.
- Acknowledged that certain information is not currently available, and further work is required on this.
- Need to identify how we put this on a sustainable footing across the sectors.
- From a human health perspective, the HPSC advised that a multidisciplinary approach is needed e.g. the expertise of a Consultant Microbiologist, a Surveillance Scientist and a Clinical Pharmacist. Consideration would need to be given to the resources and processes required in a business planning context.

DOH advised that arrangements have been made for typesetting and editing and typesetting are required prior to publication. Committee members were requested to submit any final notes on the report so these could be incorporated before completion. It was agreed that even though the Report would not be ready for publication, it would be referenced at the One Health Event 2018 as this was a good opportunity to highlight it to the intended audience. It had previously been agreed that the report would be published as a Government of Ireland Report.

The Committee was advised that work programmes are already in place in DAFM, having regard to the limitations of the 2016 data.

The CVO spoke about the Report:

- Noted that resources will be required to generate further reports.
- Some issues already being addressed, and consideration should be given to those.
- The 5 Strategic Objectives of iNAP should be used to address and resource this work.

DOH and DAFM will meet to discuss next steps in addressing the gaps identified in the Report. They will also convene with relevant stakeholders within each sector to see what actions can be progressed.

7. Sector Specific Activities

DOH provided update on Health Activities

- Work continues on an iNAP module for the NPSO Learning Zone which will be freely available to all on the DOH website NPSO pages.
- The NPHET-CPE is ongoing and the response to CPE remains a priority.
 - The HSE HPSC are publishing CPE Surveillance Reports on a monthly basis.
 - CPE figures are also included as a KPI in the HSE National Service Plan 2018 and will be included in the NHQRS 2019.
 - Amendment to the Notifiable Disease regulations are underway to include CPE colonisation as a notifiable disease.
- The HSE is working on a medium-term plan (3 years) regarding requirements for HCAs/AMR.
- HIQA have published National Standards on IPC in Community Settings and will showcase these at the one Health Event.
- The current national Clinical Guidelines on MRSA and *C difficile* and being updated through an expanded scope clinical guideline on HCAs. The Guideline Development Group is established, chaired by MC, and work has commenced.
- The HTA on point of care testing to guide antibiotic prescribing in the community is well underway by HIQA.
- A study on the economic burden of HCAI/AMR has been commissioned by DOH through the HRB-CICER evidence hub and will be commenced in late 2019.
- The HSE GP Out of Hours project in Cork has shown a decrease in unnecessary use of antibiotics and has been rolled out to that CHO.

DAFM provided update on Animal Activities

- The Animal Health Implementation Committee is up and running.
- 44 projects are underway with 1 complete (Critically Important Antibiotics) and 15 projects currently being led by DAFM.
- Streamlining awareness – Level 7 institutes engaged with for training.
- With regards usage data, the AMR Consumption Database currently under construction.
- Data from pig/poultry producers/wholesalers is good.
- More than half of the Pig farms in the country have been tested.
- Pig/Poultry/Calves – findings to be presented at the One Health Event 2018 Plenary session.

The IFA commented that:

- Farmer awareness of AMR should be measured.
- Guidelines should be developed for antibiotic usage including CIAs.
- Some sectors are at a more advanced stage than others.
- Dairy and lamb data would be added in the future.

The EPA gave an Environment update:

- A Programme/Watch List has already been established, which measures levels in water; Irish levels are not above EU levels.
- EPA provided funding to '10 Things to Know About' which featured AMR – Dr Fiona Walsh participated.
- Next year the EPA will give funding to 'Eco Eye'.
- A €650,000 grant has been made available for research.

The FSAI updated from the Food Sector:

- Links are available to iNAP on various websites.

- Food retailers have established a forum – Statement of Intent around responsible use of antibiotics.
- Almost all retailers have signed up – work is ongoing to engage others.

8. Update on the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) on CPE

DOH updated the group;

- 21 meetings have been held to date
- Screening numbers have increased 77%
- Work has been undertaken in the areas of HCAI/AMR governance, measurement structures/surveillance, resources and capacity building, and continuous improvement.
- Considerations are currently being given to the next phase in the management of CPE in the health service.

HPSC updated the group that there were approx 50 new cases of CPE identified each month.

9. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) / European Commission Country Visit 2019

As previously mentioned at this committee, the European Commission and the ECDC jointly conduct a programme of One Health country visits. To date, Ireland has not participated. The DOH/DAFM/Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment have received an official letter of invitation to participate from the European Commission last month.

KB, who previously participated as an inspector in a country visit, briefly outlined the intent and format of the visit.

It was agreed that the committee supported a One Health country visit by the ECDC. Consequently, the DOH and DAFM would respond positively to the invitation from the EU Commission and start preparations for the visit.

10. AOB

DOH provided update that:

- Work is progressing on the EU-JAMRI, including work package 7.
- London School of Economics / European Observatory of Health Systems study on a selection of AMR National Action Plans was nearing completion and is due for publication. Date to be advised. iNAP was included in this assessment and DOH / DAFM provided information to the research team earlier in the year.
- Northern Ireland are currently working on their 5 year Action Plan with an aim of completion to align with the review of the UK action plan.

FSAI advised that Ireland is a member of the research initiative JPIAMR which may present research opportunities. DOH will seek update from HRB regarding their interaction with this initiative.

EPA advised that there would be a Joint Call on AMR in 2020 (€500,000).

IFA advised on an issue with some supermarkets and labelling of products.

The CVO reflected on the positivity that has been evident over the past couple of years between the DOH and DAFM and the committee and acknowledged the significant stakeholder engagement in advancing work on AMR. In particular, the work of both MS and DOS were acknowledged in bringing the One Health Surveillance Report to the Committee. Also the DAFM iNAP Implementation Group was noted as working very positively.

The CMO acknowledged the departments working together and noted the good spirit and collective effort of all involved.

11. Date of next meeting

Date for the next meeting to be advised by DAFM.

Agreed that the next meeting would take place in DAFM in Backweston, Celbridge in Spring 2019.

12. Actions

Action	Stakeholders
1. Publication of One Health Surveillance Report	DOH, DAFM and Subgroup
2. Consideration of next steps for One Health Surveillance Report	DOH, DAFM and Subgroup
3. Seek update on JPIAMR	DOH