

Minutes of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee 10th Meeting

Wednesday 3rd April 2019 – 2.30pm

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – Boardroom, Floor 2, Administration Building,
Backweston Business Campus, Celbridge, Co. Dublin**

Attendance

Chair

Dr Paula Barry Walsh – Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (DCVO) – DAFM (PBW) (on behalf of Dr Martin Blake – Chief Veterinary Officer DAFM & Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members

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

Dr Aisling O'Connor – EPA (AOC)

Dr Lisa O'Connor – FSAI (LOC)

Dr Olive Smyth – HPRA (OS)

Ms Áine O'Connell – ICMSA (AOC)

Mr Tomás Bourke – Irish Farmers Association (TB)

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

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

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

Ms Brigid Doherty – Public Representative (BD)

Ms Fiona Tierney – Veterinary Council of Ireland (FT)

Mr David McGuinness – Veterinary Ireland (DMcG)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms. Marita Kinsella – Director (MK)

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

Ms Eithne Barron – Patient Safety Surveillance – NPSO (EB)

Ms Sarah Delaney – Patient Safety Surveillance – NPSO

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Mr Rob Doyle – Head of Division (RD)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector (CG)

Ms Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector (JB)

Mr Niall McIntyre – Veterinary Medicines Division (NMCI)

Apologies

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

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

Mr David Graham – AHI

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

Dr Lorraine Nolan – HPRA

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

Mr John McCormack – ICMSA

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 7th November 2018

The Minutes of the last/ninth meeting were circulated before this meeting and were approved with the addition of Apologies to be noted for the VCI in respect of that meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest Forms were circulated to all members.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

As an agreed agenda action, the Committee was advised that since its last meeting RL and EB have engaged with the Health Research Board on AMR research underway in Ireland through the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR). JPIAMR is a global collaborative organisation and platform, engaging 27 nations with the aim of curbing AMR with a One Health approach. Its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) focuses on priority topics and research and innovation objectives to address AMR. The link to the JPIAMR SRIA Report, due for publication in May 2019, will be circulated to Committee members by DoH once available.

5. For information: Update on 'One Health' actions

The **One Health 2018 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Event** which was jointly hosted by DAFM/DoH/HSE for prescribers of antibiotic medicines in November 2018 (healthcare and veterinary practitioners) was a success. It would have been more ideal to have had more veterinary practitioners present on the day.

An educational video explaining AMR was filmed on the morning of the One Health Event with contributions from Dr Eibhlín Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer/DoH, Dr Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Consultant Microbiologist/Beaumont Hospital, Professor Martin Cormican, AMRIC National Clinical Lead/HSE and Dr Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer/DAFM. It was agreed that both the videos and presentations would be uploaded to the DAFM and DoH websites. VI will also circulate these links to its membership.

CG and EB attended a **European Commission AMR One Health Network Meeting** in Brussels on 12th March 2019, representing both Departments. The meeting identified the need for a One Health approach to undergraduate education of doctors/vets/dentists - all prescribers of antibiotics. If not already done so nationally, the meeting suggested that Deans of faculties of medicine/veterinary/life sciences should be contacted and encouraged to consider implementing a One Health strategy in their approach to education and training; DAFM have contacted the relevant faculties in Ireland.

KK advised the Committee that the human health side is concentrating on antimicrobial stewardship and a project is underway using Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) data. Active intervention is needed to ensure this happens across the health system. KK told the Committee that, in the community, peer work between GPs on prescribing habits has been shown to be effective to decrease antimicrobial use (AMU). KK offered to bring a report paper on qualitative changes to decrease AMU to the next Committee meeting in November. MOS identified parallels between prescribing behaviour among vets and community GPs.

CG gave the Committee a presentation entitled '*Outcomes of open debate on Implementation of One Health in undergraduate education*' that had been used at the Commission Meeting.

The Commission Meeting was also informed of the launch of ICARS (International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions). ICARS is a novel international and independent AMR centre with a focus on implementation and solution research on AMR and will operate globally from a hub in Copenhagen, Denmark. ICARS will focus on

addressing AMR in low- and middle-income countries as such countries stand to be disproportionately affected by AMR. ICARS will look at AMR in terms of sustainable development on a global scale. KK advised that a staff member of ICARS will be hosted in Ireland by the HPSC.

The joint **EFSA/ECDC Summary Report on 2017** data, published in March 2019 was also presented at the Commission Meeting. AMR is still a challenge. KK noted that although Ireland is in the mid-range of resistance rates, if the high antibiotic usage in a small number of other Member States is excluded, however, the picture is better.

6. Update on publication of ' <i>One Health</i> ' AMR Surveillance Report and proposed Study Group visit to DANMAP group in Denmark as next step
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The Chair (PBW) acknowledged the publication of the first *One Health AMR Surveillance Report* and noted the hard work involved by all who contributed. The commitment of the subgroup and the leadership of the chairs of the subgroup was commended.

On behalf of the Report Subgroup MOS read out a letter to the CMO and CVO regarding the next steps being recommended for the '*One Health*' AMR Surveillance Report process. This includes a proposed Study Group visit to the DANMAP group in Denmark. MC advised about the environmental AMR research work which is being led by Dr. Dearbhaile Morris in conjunction with the EPA (AOC). MOS/DS will work with Dr. Morris to ensure that environmental AMR data gathered as part of the AREST project is included in the next One Health Report. Dr. Morris will be asked to be the environmental nominee to input into the 2019 Report.

A business case is to be prepared to inform the sustainability and resourcing of ongoing One Health Reports. The subgroup was asked to present its work on the 2nd draft Report at the Committee's next meeting.

7. Update on sector specific activities – Tour de Table

DAFM

CG (DAFM) advised the Committee that, of the 44 projects in the *i*NAP Animal Health Implementation Plan, 29 projects are continuing, 12 have been completed and 3 are yet to start. The 12 completed projects are:

Strategic Objective 1 - Improve knowledge and awareness of AMR (Nos. 1, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12);
Strategic Objective 2 – Enhance surveillance of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use (No. 17);
Strategic Objective 3 – Reduce the spread of infection and disease (No. 25);
Strategic Objective 4 – Optimise the use of antibiotics in human and animal health (Nos. 26, 32 and 33); and
Strategic Objective 5 – Promote research and sustainable investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions (No. 43).

Project No. 12 that will ensure the inclusion of AMR in the syllabus of undergraduate agricultural degrees has involved meetings with 12 Third-Level Colleges to date.

HPRA

OS (HPRA) advised that the HPRA is adopting a strategic approach to communicating changes in antimicrobial medicines. The HPRA is also implementing *i*NAP principles into its work to position itself to take a leading role in antimicrobials policy in the EU/more active role at European Medicines Agency (EMA) level regarding supply and pricing of antimicrobials. HPRA will provide advice to market authorisation holders (MAHs) about what to expect when seeking market authorisation for new products.

There was a significant fluoroquinolone safety alert in December 2018; work is ongoing to address this issue in relation to licensing for human use.

There was some debate about whether reference should be to 'antibiotic resistance' or 'antimicrobial resistance'. However, DS and MC advised that the latter term is the accepted international term.

HPRA

- The Authority has recruited a microbiologist.
- Growing concerns about resistance to antifungals with only 4/5 antifungal agents licenced in Ireland.

MOS highlighted the need to send out bite size chunks of information on AMR to prescribers and end users to avoid information overload.

ICMSA

- Newsletter published in late 2018 around the 6Rs.
- Structures needed to allow farmers to return out of date/unused antibiotic medicines.
- EPA's Farm Hazardous Waste Collection Scheme was not run in 2018; AO'C (EPA) advised that a report of the scheme is due for publication.

There is a need to close off the circle by recording the disposal of unused AMs; acknowledging the numerous stakeholders involved in this area, a coordinated scheme needs to be considered. There was also discussion to consider appropriate disposal of human medicines. This matter could also be a potential theme for a European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD).

MOS suggested that a Committee sub-group could be established to look at this issue further. PBW accepted this proposal with the caveat that all relevant stakeholders become members. MC and VI, ICMSA, IFA agreed to participate in this sub-group

VCI

- Issued an animal care guidance document to its members.
- Acknowledged difficulties around implementing rules of 'Animals under the Care' for Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVPs).

FSAI

- 7 retail members signed up to a Statement of Intent on Prudent Use Guidelines.
- In conjunction with its 20-year anniversary FSAI has linked with the Science Gallery to feature an exhibition on AMR.
- Will ensure use of the iNAP logo in the Authority's work with Bord Bia.

DoH

- Significant progress has been made with regard to iNAP implementation and control through the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), established by the CMO in October 2017.
- This includes €2m full year costs investment agreed in 2018.

- Work underway on prioritising developments for 2019. To date this has increased capacity at national and hospital level.

In relation to communications around AMR (Strategic Objective 1 of iNAP) in general, the HSE's Newsletter (RESIST), published 4/5 time per year, will be issued to Committee members; DoH will arrange for contact details to be forwarded to the HSE. DoH will also discuss content additions, encompassing a One Health aspect, with the HSE's HCAI/AMR Communications Lead.

VI

- Expressed vets' concerns around implementation of Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HP-CIAs) policy document.
- Potential loss of business for vets if they switch from one antimicrobial group to another.
- Some vets would be happy for the option to prescribe CIAs to be fully removed from vets.
- Importance of having these antibiotics is acknowledged.
- Cost of disposal, which is met by the PVPs, was raised.

Supportive of the 'Animals Under the Care' guidance document

EPA

- The Agency is Promoting research into environmental AMR through the AREST and PIER Projects and other work.
- A 4-year study into the public health impact of AMR in coastal waters is being undertaken by NUIG, the HSE and University of Exeter.
- Updates on the research in progress was provided at the European Joint Programme (EJP) Mirror Group meeting of last week.

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

DoH initiated a National Public Health Emergency on the same day that *Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2020 (iNAP)* was launched i.e. 25th October 2017. The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) continues to meet. A monthly CPE surveillance report is now published. Since December 2018 CPE is a notifiable disease, including CPE colonisation without clinical signs.

DoH has worked closely with the HSE to agree a suite of priority actions to cover NPHET and the implementation of iNAP. A Memo for Government for Information was presented by Minister Harris by way of update on CPE and implementation of iNAP for the Cabinet in December 2018.

- National Guidelines on CPE have been updated and expanded.
- Comprehensive surveillance and management of CPE nationally is in place.
- CPE surveillance data shows increased significantly screening activity.

9. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) / European Commission One Health AMR Country Visit (7th to 11th October 2019)

Ireland (through the Ministers for Health, Agriculture, Food & the Marine and Environment respectively) received an invitation letter from the European Commission/ECDC to partake in a One Health AMR Country Visit which is now scheduled for 7th to 11th October 2019. We are awaiting further information from ECDC to allow planning to start for this visit.

10. AOB

The Committee was advised of the One Health European Joint Programme (EJP) 1 Annual Scientific Conference, Teagasc Conference Centre, Ashtown, 22nd to 24th May 2019. This co-funded group involving 19 EU Member States is looking at foodborne AMR. Teagasc and NUIG are co-hosting the event; intending participants can register to attend using the registration link on the conference website @ <https://www.oheip2019.com>

- Other matters/or information:

DoH have commissioned an economic burden study on AMR related costs in the health service and initial scoping is due to commence. The Committee noted that the results of this study would be useful for future AMR projects. RL advised that the methodology will be published along with the report.

An ECDC report: *Point Prevalence Study (PPS) of Hospital-Acquired Infections & Antimicrobial Use in European Acute Care Hospitals: May 2017* for Ireland will be published next week with the European wide report to be published later this year.

The HIQA Health Technology Assessment (HTA) on Point of Care Testing to guide antibiotic prescribing is nearing completion.

- Date of next meeting:

The next/eleventh Committee meeting was agreed for Thursday 7th November 2019 at 2.30pm in Department of Health, Room 704, Miesian Plaza, 50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 XW14.

11. Close

Action	Stakeholders
1. Agenda Item 4 - The link to the JPIAMR SRIA Report, due for publication in May 2019, will be circulated to Committee members when available.	DoH
2. Agenda Item 5 – Following on from the One Health Event 2018 both the videos and presentations to be uploaded to the DAFM and DoH websites. VI will also circulate these links to its membership.	DoH, DAFM, VI
3. Agenda item 5 - Caroline Garvan presentation on the 'Outcomes of open debate on Implementation of One Health in undergraduate education' was emailed to the Committee on 10 th April 2019.	DAFM
4. Agenda item 5 – Kevin Kelleher to bring a report paper on qualitative changes to decrease AMU.	HPSC

5. Agenda item 6 MOS/DS to work with Dr. Dearbhaile Morris who will contribute to the 'One Health' AMR Surveillance Report from the environmental perspective.	DoH, DAFM, EPA and Subgroup
6. Agenda Item 6 - A business case is to be prepared to inform the sustainability and resourcing of ongoing One Health Reports. The subgroup was also asked to present its work on the 2nd draft Report at the Committee's next meeting.	MOS/DS/Subgroup
7. Agenda item 7 – Committee sub-group to be established with all appropriate stakeholders to look at the issue of appropriate disposal of human medicines. In addition, DoH to Include disposal of human medicines under AOB in Agenda for next/eleventh Committee meeting on 7/11/19.	DoH and DAFM, appropriate stakeholders
8. Agenda item 7 – the link to HSE RESIST Newsletter to be emailed to the Committee for information purposes.	DoH and DAFM