

CervicalCheck Steering Committee

Date: 23 January 2020

Steering Committee: Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, DOH, Chair
Fiona Ness, Communications Manager, National Screening Service
Dr Colm Henry, HSE Chief Clinical Officer
David Walsh, HSE National Director, Community Operations
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, DOH, Primary Care Division
Damien McCallion, National Director, HSE National Screening Service
Stephen Teap, Patient Representative
Brigid Doherty, Patient Advocate
Donal Buggy, Head of Services and Advocacy, Irish Cancer Society
Prof Mary Horgan, President, RCPI

In attendance: Celine Fitzgerald, Interim CEO, National Screening Service
Deirdre McNamara, Office of the CCO, HSE
Marita Kinsella, National Patient Safety Office, DOH
Stephen Brophy, Governance and Performance Division, DOH
Evette Wade, Office of the CMO, DOH
Dr. Alan Smith, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH
Danny Kavanagh, Office of the CMO, DOH
Michele Tait, Scally Report Implementation Lead, HSE

Apologies: Dr. Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director, CervicalCheck
Dr. Peter McKenna, Clinical Director, HSE Women and Infants Programme
Anne O'Connor, interim Deputy Director General, Operations, HSE
Dr. Mary Short, ICGP

DISCUSSION and ACTION POINTS

NO.	Agenda Item	Discussion and Actions Agreed
1.	Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed the members and noted the apologies. It was acknowledged that Dr Lorraine Doherty had taken up a new position in the HSE and that Dr Caroline Mason-Mohan, currently Director of Public Health in the NSS would take up the role of Clinical Lead.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2019 were agreed by the Committee.
3.	HSE reporting	Provision of documents to patients: Client Services continue to provide documents as requests are received. Stephen Teap notified the Committee that he had recently met some women who were part of the RCOG review and that they had not received minutes from their disclosure meetings which took place in October. The HSE noted that of 249 meetings held, 200 meeting

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		<p>minutes had been issued with the rest to be issued within 4 weeks. Mr Teap requested that the HSE prepare a communication that could be issued to women explaining the timelines and process of issuing the minutes of the RCOG disclosure meetings to women and families.</p> <p>Action 26/120: HSE NSS would prepare a communication outlining the timelines and process of issuing minutes to women and families following their RCOG disclosure meetings and share directly with 221+ support Group.</p> <p>Smear test turnaround times: Average turnaround times for the laboratories is 3.29 weeks.</p> <p>Colposcopy: The HSE NSS noted that colposcopy is still facing some challenges. The HSE has engaged with the Colposcopy community with a view to addressing the issues, with the engagement being led by the working group that includes representatives from the national Women and Infant's Health Programme, the Acute Hospitals Directorate and the National Screening Service. It was noted that extra clinical sessions have been added to reduce waiting lists.</p> <p>Sally implementation: It was noted that implementation of Dr Scally's recommendations is progressing well with the HSE confident that work would conclude in early 2020. It was noted that Dr Scally is currently completing his review of implementation and a final report is awaited from him.</p> <p>HPV primary screening: The risk rating status of the HPV Screening project was reported as 'amber' meaning that risks exist but that the project remains on track for primary screening to commence before the end of Q1. The project team is actively managing all aspects as it prepares for the operational transition to HPV primary screening. The main project risks at this time include Laboratory preparedness, ICT changes associated with testing requirements and colposcopy capacity and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The HSE NSS are actively managing the risks associated with the project. Quest have indicated their readiness to start processing samples that will allow HPV primary screening to commence before the end of Q1 2020. It was noted that the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) are due to undertake an accreditation visit to The Coombe in February 2020. The HSE will continue to liaise with the Coombe on this matter as it is a necessary QA requirement before commencing HPV screening.</p> <p>Prof Mary Horgan noted that the RCPI Faculty of Pathology would welcome engagement with the HSE to facilitate the training of their members in preparation for the introduction of HPV primary screening. An application for CPD recognition of the planned workshops would be welcomed by the RCPI. The HSE undertook to engage directly with the college in this regard.</p> <p>Action 27/121: The HSE NSS will contact the RCPI in relation to the training/education of their members in relation to HPV primary screening.</p> <p>Ex Gratia Scheme: The Department advised that 165 applications have been received and all have been paid. The scheme remains open.</p> <p>CervicalCheck Tribunal: The Department referred to the information note that was included in the meeting pack that had been circulated to the 221+ Group which updated them on the progress to date.</p>

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		<p>As advised at the last meeting in December 2019, it is anticipated that the fit-out of the Tribunal premises will be completed at the end of February 2020. The Minister for Health has informed the Government of his intention to appoint The Hon. Mr Justice Michael Peart and The Hon. Mr. Justice Brian McGovern as members.</p> <p>The Department has begun the process of staffing the Tribunal with a combination of administrative and legal staff. The administrative staffing needs will be met when the responses received to an expression of interest are reviewed. The Department will recruit separate staff to facilitate the administration of the Restoration of Trust meetings.</p> <p>Brigid Doherty raised the issue of the upcoming general election and requested clarity on the Department's policy position in relation to the Tribunal should there be a change in Minister for Health. The Department confirmed that its position would remain unchanged and advice provided to any new Minister would reflect that position.</p>
4.	AOB	<p>Stephen Teap requested that the HSE include an update on HPV vaccination figures for the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Action 28/122: HSE NSS would obtain and include an update on HPV vaccination figures at the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Thursday 27 February 2020 at 11.30 am.</p>

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