

## Meeting of Pandemic Ethics Advisory Group Minutes

- **Attendees (via Microsoft Teams):**
  - Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan (Chair);
  - Prof. David Smith;
  - Dr Barry Lyons;
  - Mr Stephen McMahan;
  - Dr Joan McCarthy;
  - Dr Andrea Mulligan BL;
  - Dr Louise Campbell;
  - Mr Mervyn Taylor.
- **Apologies:**
  - Dr Simon Mills SC.
- **Also in Attendance:**
  - Emily de Grae (secretariat);
  - Audrey Ní Chaoindealbháin (secretariat).

### 1. Minutes

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

### 2. Update from NPHE

- The Chair provided an update on the most recently available COVID-19 statistics.
- She noted that NPHE continues to focus on nursing homes and other residential care settings.
- The Chair stated that advice on the imposition and de-imposition of the public restrictions was being carefully planned and would involve a gradual lifting of measures.
- It was agreed that the paper relating to the meaning of solidarity would be of particular importance in the de-escalation phase.

### 3. COVID Research Ethics Committee (REC)

- The Chair informed members that the COVID REC had been established and was reviewing its first set of applications.

### 4. Feedback on *Ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the context of COVID-19* paper

- The secretariat updated members on further feedback to the Critical Care paper, specifically in relation to disability, and informed them that the Minister had made a statement on the matter in the Dáil on 16<sup>th</sup> April.
- The Chair informed the group that the HSE’s National Clinical Programme on Disability had also received feedback to the paper from disability advocacy groups.
- The secretariat gave an overview of a draft supplementary paper that re-emphasises the key message of the Critical Care paper i.e. that no single factor should be considered in isolation

when allocating scarce ICU resources and which also addresses issues relating specifically to disability.

- There followed a discussion of the draft paper and members agreed to send in written comments to the secretariat who would then redraft and recirculate the paper.
- It was agreed that the supplementary paper would be published, once finalised.

## **5. Ethical Considerations Relating to Long Term Residential Care**

- A brief overview of the draft paper was given, and it was agreed that the final output will be sufficiently reflective of the key ethical challenges relating to residential care settings.
- The Chair and members thanked the drafters for their work and agreed that the paper should give an in-depth consideration of key concepts.
- There followed an in-depth discussion of the potential content of the paper including:
  - The concept of “home” in residential care settings and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on that concept;
  - The vulnerability of residents;
  - The impact of the pandemic on families being able to visit and support their loved ones and to get information in the event of restrictions;
  - Testing of staff and clients;
  - The advantages and disadvantages of telemedicine; and
  - Advanced care planning.
- It was agreed that members would submit a list of concepts for potential inclusion in the paper. It was agreed that the secretariat would collate these and circulate in the coming days.
- A timeline of two weeks for completion of the paper was agreed.

## **6. AOB**

- The Chair informed members that the HSE had produced specific guidance in relation to CPR in residential care settings and stated that the secretariat would circulate to the group.
- It was agreed that the PEAG would meet again on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.