



Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group on Managing antimicrobial resistance across the health system (Virtual meeting)

1 April 2022

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. The minutes of the previous meeting of 8 March 2022 have been approved and will be published on the Expert Panel website.

2. Nature of the meeting

The fourth drafting group meeting on ‘managing antimicrobial resistance across the health system’ took place on 1 April 2022 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could interfere with the topic discussed were submitted by any member.

3. Points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion

A draft opinion was sent to the participants prior to the meeting. The Chair and rapporteurs gave a preview of the main elements and how specific sections of the opinion were expanded.

Rapporteurs recalled the questions of the mandate that the opinion should focus on and presented the updated high-level outline. They stressed the text should be clear and concise.

Under the chapter on AMR and its impact members discussed the best way to present the burden of disease and the efforts made to decrease the consumption of antibiotics. They pointed out that differences between countries and regions must be taken into consideration.

They discussed what contributes to the spread of AMR with focus on the health system and taking into account the One Health approach. They underlined that increased mobility facilitates

the global spread of resistant bacteria and AMR genes, and high-income countries are more likely to be recipients of AMR originating from middle- and low-income countries.

Members suggested including a map with countries and regions that have specifically high prevalence of AMR.

They discussed developing relevant indicators to draw a picture of fighting AMR at EU level with corresponding timeline of actions.

Rapporteurs outlined the framework for policy interventions at the health system level, including stewardship policies, infection prevention and control, vaccination, public awareness campaigns, encouraging research and development. They highlighted several categories of determinants such as physician's prescribing practice, population characteristics and healthcare policy that have a profound impact on the health system.

They discussed in detail the health beliefs model and the theory of planned behaviour that show the determinants of patients' demand, and highlighted an important aspects of communication between patients and providers, and shared decision making.

Under the chapter on policy analysis of national plans, members raised the issue of a lack of standardization in the actions and deployment strategies across European countries. They touched upon the heterogeneity of countries having adopted policies to address AMR in long-term facilities. They also discussed what the most urgent investments would be, some promising elements in national plans, as well as some main obstacles in their implementation.

4. Conclusion

Members agreed to provide their contributions for specific sub-sections of a draft opinion as well as suggestions for recommendations by 20 April to have a consolidated draft ready prior to the next meeting of the drafting group. The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation and for the valuable discussion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 26 April 2022 via MS Teams.

6. List of participants

EXPH members: Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Dr Anna Garcia-Altes (apologies), Professor Damien Gruson, Dr Dionne Kringos, Professor Lasse Lehtonen, Professor Christos Lionis, Professor Martin McKee, Professor Liubove Murauskiene, Dr Heather-Lynn Rogers, Professor Luigi Siciliani, Dr Jelka Zaletel

Invited external private expert: Professor An De Sutter

Representatives from the European Commission (DG SANTE: B1)

Representative from ECDC