



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Second drafting group meeting on care organisation following the Covid-19 pandemic (WebEx conference)

28 August 2020

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

2. Nature of the meeting

The second drafting group meeting on health and social care organisation following the Covid-19 pandemic took place on 28 August 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Jan De Maeseneer, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

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

3. List of points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion

Members discussed whether the issue of resilience should not be reflected in the title. COM stressed that the opinion should not be a theoretical document on resilience, but should highlight the concrete aspects how care systems should be organised, what needs to be considered for making care organisation more effective and resilient following Covid-19. COM further commented that the part on vulnerable population should be clearer, and overlaps between different parts should be avoided.

Members considered how best to include the importance of community work, add elements of a new framework beyond the classical 6 building blocks of a health system, and integrate social determinants. Members further suggested to maintain coherence and links between the sections and present headings as parts of a framework to better navigate a reader.

The rapporteurs gave a preview of the main elements added in the current draft and how specific sections of the opinion have been expanded. Newly drafted part A introduces the ‘classical’ building blocks by WHO as well as challenges to go beyond it. This part also mentions all kinds of tools that were developed to monitor the quality and performance of care systems.

Part B details conditions for capacity building of health and social care. Members discussed how to focus more clearly on response of the systems to shocks, pointed at capacity use different forms of information for actionable decision-making and measures, touched upon different political attitudes of decision making. Members agreed on the importance of public trust to the political leaders and to the health systems to make the right decisions and importance of communication.

Part C defines the frame and gives definition of vulnerability. Members discussed various approaches to this issue. They agreed it is needed to emphasise issues of vulnerability, socioeconomic inequalities and stressed the importance to add a strategy how to reduce it and how to maintain availability and access to care for vulnerable groups. Ethnicity as an important factor during Covid-19 was mentioned but the data collection on it is missing.

Part D details the approach to resilience testing of health systems with both qualitative and quantitative data collection. The core of the resilience test is the assessment of system function, evolution and responsiveness under various scenarios. This part presents example of a scorecard scoring of indicators under various conditions as an important outcome that must be meaningful to the health system stakeholders and lists the high level baseline indicators to ensure comparability of data. Members stressed that the indicators as a tool should be practical, introducing context specificities taking into account countries specific situation. They pointed out that the aim of the resilience test is not to rank, it does not equal performance assessment.

4. Conclusion

The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion. The members agreed to elaborate the specific questions in sub-groups and circulate the updated draft prior to the next meeting of 16 September.

5. Next meeting

The draft opinion with focus on recommendations will be discussed in the next drafting group meeting on 16 September 2020 via WebEx conference.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

DE MAESENEER Jan

GARCIA-ALTES Anna (apologies)
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina
PITA BARROS Pedro
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
STAHL Dorothea
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZACHAROV Sergej
ZALETEL Jelka

DG SANTE

DAJKA Bela
VOLOSINOVA Viera