



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Audio meeting of the HSC

01 December 2016, 14.00 – 15:00 (CET)

Draft Flash report

The Chair welcomed the members of the Health Security Committee (HSC) as well as representatives from DG SANTE, DG GROW, ECDC, EMA, WHO Europe and Switzerland. Switzerland had been invited to participate as it had provided the original notifications regarding both main items on the agenda and was available to provide further information which could be useful to HSC members on these topics.

The Agenda of the meeting was approved.

1. INVASIVE INFECTIONS OF MYCOBACTERIUM CHIMAERA ASSOCIATED WITH 3T HEATER/COOLER SYSTEM

The HSC reviewed the updated risk assessment produced by ECDC on 18 November and the measures currently being taken by Member States and through the EU network of responsible authorities for medical devices to address the issue.

Options for mitigation measures were also addressed. Such measures include removal of the device from the operating room or at least placement away from the patient with the vent directed away from the operating table and adherence to the updated instructions for cleaning and decontamination. The importance of ensuring awareness among a wide spectrum of healthcare providers was highlighted while at the same time the challenges of patient notification were discussed.

There was an exchange of information between Members on the actions being taken and being considered; including further information to health professionals and patients.

It was agreed that there is a need for further exchanges of information and coordination between EU public health authorities regarding action to identify further cases and the implementation of control measures. There is also a need for ongoing coordination of activities at EU level between the Health Security Committee and the network on the safety of medical devices.

The issue will be kept under review by ECDC and by HSC. ECDC is invited to assist in collecting information on the various measures undertaken in the different Member States and provide an update in a future HSC meeting.

2. MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS IN MIGRANTS

ECDC gave an update on a cluster of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis found in migrants, focussing on the rapid risk assessment finalised on 23 November. The international cluster involves 15 cases in four countries and in all of them the same genetic clone with an identical drug resistance profile was identified.

Member states are collaborating with ECDC and checking in their national tuberculosis typing databases for additional cases, in order to further delineate the extent of the outbreak.

The Chair concluded the meeting thanking ECDC for the rapid risk assessment and member states for the information provided. He underlined that the epidemiological investigation is ongoing. Member States are requested to share tuberculosis typing information, which would contribute towards an update of the ECDC risk assessment. A follow up discussion in the HSC would be convened as necessary.