



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

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

16 May 2022

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. The minutes of the previous meeting of 26 April 2022 have been approved and will be published on the [Expert Panel website](#).

2. Nature of the meeting

The sixth drafting group meeting on ‘managing antimicrobial resistance across the health system’ took place on 16 May 2022 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

Professor Jan De Maeseneer informed the Secretariat and the members that he has been appointed as a member of the Belgian Federal Scientific Committee for the reform of healthcare in prisons.

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

3. Points discussed

Recommendations in the draft opinion

This drafting group meeting was mostly dedicated to brainstorming and discussing possible recommendations. The framework used was based around the building blocks of resilient health and social care which were elaborated in the Expert Panel opinion on [Organisation of resilient health and social care following the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Members agreed that health workforce is one of the essential building blocks. They stressed the need for appropriate and continuous training of health professionals and intersectoral collaboration. They pointed at differences among Member States regarding the availability and

skills levels of the health workforce and the need for increased awareness and prioritization about infection control and AMR.

Talking about governance as another building block, members mentioned the significance of leadership and the need to identify organisations, networks, or institutions at national level which have the ability to take the lead on AMR action plans. Leaders should be aware that tackling AMR is part of safety in healthcare. Members also pointed to the accountability of national governments for national AMR action plans and the requirement to ensure monitoring, reporting, and evaluating of these plans.

Members further discussed the role of health promotion, the role of community carers and the role of primary care as well as long-term care. Integrated health care and promoting interdisciplinary ways of working were also mentioned as essential elements.

Members also pointed out issues around monitoring and surveillance of AMR and the use of antibiotics in the EU and beyond. They stressed the need for not only collection, but also systematic analysis and interpretation of data; utilization of innovative technologies; financial incentives, e.g. re-imburement policies; development of new antibiotics and adequate EU funding for it.

Some members contemplated the role of the new Commission Authority -HERA- in addressing AMR.

Feedback/comments on the chapters

The Chair and rapporteurs gave an overview of the main updates on the chapters.

Under the chapter on AMR and its impact, rapporteurs pointed to changes and adjustments on AMR attributable deaths and the addition of north-to-south and west-to-east gradient of AMR. Considering the trends in antibiotic consumption in Europe, members agreed to leave out the year 2020 as data for this year are biased due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rapporteurs gave an overview of evidence-based interventions at health system level to tackle AMR, together with the opportunities and challenges that they present.

Members discussed the importance of increasing awareness about AMR. It was highlighted that it was important to strengthen antibiotic stewardship (ABS) by i) interventions focusing mainly on changing the prescribing behaviour of clinicians through the use of guidelines, outreach visits, etc., ii) financial incentives to encourage appropriate antibiotic use, iii) shared decision-making between the clinician and the patient, based on the best available evidence and patient preference, iv) using point-of-care tests, such as for C-reactive protein, to rule out viral infections.

The need to strengthen ABS in the hospital was also stressed.

4. Conclusion

Rapporteurs will provide a new draft by 24 May to members for their feedback, in particular on recommendations.

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 7 June 2022 via MS Teams.

6. List of participants

EXPH members: Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Dr Anna Garcia-Altes, 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 (apologies)

Representatives from the European Commission (DG SANTE: B1)

Representative from ECDC