



Covid-19: Medicines Criticality Group

Department of Health, Miesian Plaza,

Actions – from Friday, 17th April 2020

No	Action Detail	Owner	By When	Latest Update	Status
1	Monitoring of medicines used in Irish hospitals that may be used to treat Covid 19, to treat secondary infections and as supportive treatments	AHDMP, NCCP & PCRS	Ongoing	Overall supply looks ok NCCP to provide update on compounded preparations in light of Irish sea ferry issues	Open
2	MAHs to be contacted re availability of investigational therapeutics	AHDMP & PCRS	Ongoing		Open
3	Securing ICU EMP supplies,	AHDMP	31/03	<p>NMBAs to remain at amber, over the coming weeks, barring a sharp increase in ICU occupancy.</p> <p>Prescribing behavior circular issued, but further change will be critical</p> <p>Department of Health to see could Meds. Group present to clinical leadership forum on the above.</p> <p>Mechanism for flagging potential local shortages to be considered by AHDMP</p> <p>[RISK MITIGATION OUTLINED BELOW]</p>	Open



Neuromuscular blocking agents – increased global demand and limited availability					
Risk Mitigation Strategy		Action Owner		Risk Status	
Support prescribing of the therapeutic class, not just one moiety within the class		Critical Care Programme and Prescribers		Medium	
Centrally engage with MAH holders and suppliers of unlicensed drugs to ensure additional stocks are secured		AHDMP		Medium	
Watching brief by HPRA Medicines Shortages unit and AHDMP to identify early disruptions to supply		AHDMP/HPRA		Medium	
Escalation of European wide supply chain vulnerability to EU Commission		DOH		Medium	
4	HSE Modelling data to be shared with group when available	DoH	Ongoing	Modelling group to provide data up to end of April. Department of Health to follow up and seek written report	Open
5	PCRS to update Group on mechanism to limit <i>de novo</i> patients on hydroxychloroquine for antiviral purposes	PCRS	Ongoing	No spike in hydroxychloroquine usage observed as of yet. PCRS steps appear to be working PCRS and HPRA to consider increasing HCQ supplies to approx. 110% of historical norm in order to prevent local legitimate supply issues.	Open
6	Parallel exporting	HPRA		Some wholesalers confirmed as supplying commercial accounts. HPRA closely monitoring wholesalers that operate by exporting from Irish market. Written communication in progress to remind of obligations	Open
7	Establishment of a stakeholder forum, to operate outside Subgroup meetings	Department of Health / PSI	17/04	Close to being formally established by HSE	Open
8	Export prohibitions	HPRA/DOH		Department of Health to engage with DOH colleagues to enable approach to UK Department of Health and Social Care to be made	Open
9	Use of anti-coagulants.	AHDMP		Contact made between Paul Gilvarry and Colm Bergin. Data review underway	Open
10	Meds CAG members to check for P&O shipping involvement in supply chains	All	21/04		Open
11	AHDMP to look at and share information on ICU drugs in therapeutic	AHDMP	21/04		Open



	groups in rank order of usage last year				
12	European industry-led study on ICU meds demand	HPRA & DoH		HPRA to update on any further information; DoH to check with CION colleagues for any further knowledge	Open
13	Increased demand for Epoprostenol treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)	AHDMP		Regular users of Epoprostenol were offered extra supplies before Covid-19 demand took hold. Little uptake of this offer. Supply to be monitored	Open

Decisions:

It is unlikely that developing first and second line treatments in therapeutic areas, similar to NI, is the optimal use of resources at present, but sight of usage rates in our hospitals would be beneficial. Report to be generated.

ACTIONS CLOSED ON 14 APRIL

	HPRA to provide update on status of questionnaire to MAHs	HPRA	Ongoing	No significant issues currently. On the whole, general supply looks ok	Closed
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ACTIONS CLOSED ON 17 APRIL

	MAH to be asked to issue communication to reassure patient groups re HCQ supplies	AHDMP	07/04	AHDMP to follow up with MAH	Closed
	Supplies of HCQ	AHDMP		AHDMP to check with relevant MAH on HCQ stocks and supply chains	Closed
	Department of Health to circulate European Commission framework on rational use of medicines	Department of Health	17/04		Closed
	Department of Health to inform Joint Procurement process of likely reduction in Irish demand for interferon beta	Department of Health			Closed
	Paracetamol supplies	All		Still increased demand for OTC products However, supply is flowing well now. Finished paracetamol products now being released from India.	Closed



				To remain under review,	
	Immunocompromised patients	HSE National Quality Improvement		Will be sent to PCRS for dissemination.	Closed
	Group to review impact of comms as regards the perceived pull on supply chains and changes in messaging	DoH / HPRA	Ongoing	Will take a full procurement cycle to confirm that stability has been re-established.	Closed
	PCRS to provide written report on prescribing patterns in context of pandemic planning	PCRS	Week of 20/04	Report received	Closed
	If hospital treatments move into community, DoH to be informed for eligibility considerations	AHDMP & PCRS	Ongoing		Closed