



## Covid-19: Medicines Criticality Assessment Group

via teleconference

### Actions- from Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

**Attendees:** HSE: Muriel Pate (HSE National Quality Improvement), Kathy Hassell (PCRS), Risteard Prendergast (PCRS), Lisa Kelly (PCRS), Kate Mulvenna (PCRS), Shane Doyle (AHDMP), Fionnuala King (AHDMP), Marie Philbin (AMRIC), Patricia Heckmann (NCCP)

**DoH:** Eamonn Quinn, Breifne O'Rourke, Rosaleen Cahill

**HPRA:** Grainne Power, Emer O'Neill, Darren Scully, Larry O'Dwyer

**Clinicians:** Pat Murray

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#### Agenda:

1. DoH Update
  2. Clinician updates
    - a. Questions from group
  3. Review of open actions
  4. AOB
  5. Medicines Criticality Review
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### Open Actions

No	Action Detail	Owner	By When	Latest Update	Status
1	Apparent spike in Fluoxetine draw-down	PCRS & HSE National Quality Improvement		PCRS tacked dispensing data on fluoxetine Slight increase in dispensing in March, but nothing significant, followed by normal demand in April. PCRS raised a query with European P&R network.  flagged to the pharmacy forum; no reports from forum of increased demands or strong rationale for spike. Group to keep a watching brief.	Ongoing
2	Supplies of midazolam	AHDMP/PCRS		Three different preparations of midazolam now available.	Open



				One is more suitable presentation for community EOL use. Steps being taken to ensure correct presentations are being used in the right environment to ensure safe use of new presentations and manage stock levels. AHDMP communication ready to issue, pending confirmation that all three presentations are with wholesalers.	
3	Report on Meds CAG progress to date to be drafted.	DoH		Chair has requested that paper be drafted to include both Medicines and Medical Devices CAG. Once updated DoH will circulate to the group again.	Open
4	Research Subgroup of EAG to reply to comments submitted	Prof. Colm Bergin		It is understood that a revised version of paper has been submitted to EAG subgroup. Awaiting outcome	Open
5	Palliative Care recommendations issued by Mental Health Commission	DoH		DoH to compile obs and issue to group members; DoH to issue correspondence of same to clinical leads	Open
6	Group to consider longer-term actions required to address potential second wave and overlap with Brexit-related issues	All			Open

### Ongoing actions

No	Action Detail	Owner	Latest Update	Status
1	Monitoring of supplies of medicines:		No significant updates	Open
A	-used in Irish hospitals that may be used to treat Covid 19.	AHDMP,	Critical Care supplies described as stable for now.	
B	-used in Irish hospitals to treat secondary infections and provide supportive care	AHDMP	AHDMP engaging with Clinical Trial Groups  Waiting on CION response to submission to ICU Joint Procurement.	
C	-used in wider hospital system	AHDMP, NCCP and PCRS	No significant updates. NCCP working on the return of non-Covid services, albeit at a reduced capacity initially	



D	- in primary care	PCRS and HPRA	No significant updates, supplies would appear to be stabilising. Some shortages are arising, but not necessarily directly related to Covid-19. Being addressed under the Medicine Shortages Framework	
2	Supply of neuromuscular blockers	AHDMP	Supplies are currently stable. Subject to ongoing monitoring.	Open
3	PCRS to update Group on mechanism to limit <i>de novo</i> patients on hydroxychloroquine for antiviral purposes	PCRS	No significant updates	Open
4	Updates from Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group	DoH	Awaiting response from Modelling Group. Chair to raise dependencies on modelling for Medicines and Medical Devices group.	Open
5	Wholesaler activities/ parallel export activities	HPRA	Service levels at normal levels. Wholesalers have flagged concerns re. costs of restocking/ responsiveness to any second wave. T/cs with wholesalers have reduced to fortnightly	Open
6	European Steering Group update	HPRA	European Steering Group met again last week. Noted hesitance of group to use joint procurement data as different countries are using different criteria. Trying to agree joint principles to estimate demand going forward. A number of questions were posed & member states were asked to reflect on them. Concern in terms of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> wave & potential issues around API supply.	Open
7	Clarification of guidance for nursing homes in relation to storage of small stock of emergency medicines for EOL care.	HSE National Quality Improvement/DoH	DoH in dialogue with NMBI and PSI around legislative basis of current guidance.	Open
8	DoH to share with PCRS the list of products banned by France for export.	DoH	No response as of yet  No impact observed to date on supplies	Open
9	Communication with stakeholders	DoH	DoH to look into Minister's availability for a multistakeholder meeting to acknowledge industry efforts to date	Open



10	API availability	HPRA	HPRA flagged an emerging issue from EU Stakeholder Group; potential supply constraints on availability of APIs. Watching brief to be maintained on the issue for now  EU steering group are also keeping a watching brief.  DoH conveying concern to CION.	Open
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### Decisions:

1. Group agreed that consideration of impacts of Brexit, in possible conjunction with continuing Covid-19 contingencies, is advisable. As per above, group to reflect on actions required to ensure longer-term sustainability of medicines supplies.

### Notes:

1. DoH compiling Action Logs with a view to publication. Publication will include names of group members.

### Closed Actions:

6	Monitor Nicotine Replacement Therapy supply	DoH/HPRA	HPRA confirmed no shortages in Ireland and that European colleagues have seen none either.	Closed
7	Use of anti-coagulants/ thrombolytics.	AHDMP	Evidence Review Group submitted review of evidence to NCAGL. Clinical guidance will not issue but lit. review available online for reference. Supplies of thrombolytics remain steady.	Closed