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| **Date & Time:** | 13 February 2019, 10:00 - 11:30 |
| **Location:** | Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington |
| **Chair:** | Allan Kinsella (rotating chair) |
| **Members:** | William Rainger, Iain McLachlan, Sheldon Ngatai, John Roche, Deborah Woodley |
| **In attendance:** | Geoffrey Roche, Natasha White, Andi Shirtcliffe, Caroline McElnay, Warren Hughes |
| **Apologies:** | Bryan Wilson |

**Minutes: Antimicrobial Resistance Governance Group Meeting**

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| **Item** | **Notes** |
| 1 | * Group welcomed, agenda outlined and no conflicts of interest declared. * The contribution of the late Dr Stewart Jessamine was acknowledged, former Ministry of Health co-Chair and Director of Protection, Regulation and Assurance.   **Review of previous action points:**   1. ***Review research on the role of companion animals in AMR***   This task had been assigned to John Potter, who has since left the Ministry of Health.   1. ***Discuss strategic alignment of health research funding with CMO***   The Ministry of Health is currently reviewing its alignment with research more generally. This should be discussed with the cross-Ministry AMR team once established. The AMR research prioritisation list developed in year one of the Action Plan will also be finalised and published.   1. ***Establish cross-ministry working groups on AMR, including leads for objectives in the action plan***   Underway.   1. ***Send invitation for the next meeting of the AMR Governance Group in February 2018, MPI to chair***   Completed.   1. ***Report back to their respective Ministers following the next meeting***   Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry of Health are to coordinate briefings. Suggested briefing once revisions to Action Plan activities are agreed.   1. ***Draft initial revisions to the Year Two – Five activities for discussion at the next governance group meeting, followed by a joint Health and Primary Industries AMR Coordination Group meeting***   Completed.   1. ***Draft a communication to HARC explaining that the Ministry acknowledges discontinuities***   Completed.   1. ***Send Wayne Rickets a note of thanks***   MPI to complete this action.  No objections were raised to the publication of the previous minutes**.**  **Actions:**   1. MPI to look into a review of the research on the role of companion animals and lead next steps, including discussion with the NZVA. 2. MoH to consider AMR in wider discussions on alignment of research agendas. 3. MPI to draft joint Ministerial briefing once revisions to Action Plan activities agreed. 4. MoH to arrange previous minutes to be published online once cross-ministry team established. |
| 2 | **Updates from members**  **Ministry of Health (MoH)**   * Acknowledged some discontinuity with staff changes in recent months. * Looking to establish stronger internal approach. Leadership sits with Population Health and Prevention, however important contributions will be made by other parts of the Ministry (Pharmacy, Primary Care, Infection Prevention and Control, etc). Finalising advice to the Director General to recommend the establishment of a formal Cross-Ministry Team (CMT) to coordinated support this work moving forward. Hoped the new CMT will be established before the joint Health and Primary Industries AMR Coordination Group meeting on 19 March.   **Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)**  ***Direct to Consumer Marketing of Pharmaceutics for Human and Animal Health***   * MPI is reviewing policy on whether direct to consumer marketing (DCM) to the agricultural sector will continue to be permitted. The Ministry of Health is also working on DCM as part of work on the Therapeutic Products Bill. The consultation document has a specific question on whether direct to consumer marketing should continue. * It was noted that this matter ought to be included in the update to Ministers, and that Ministers may wish to discuss this.   ***Codex Alimentarius- International Food Standards***   * There are some disagreements internationally on what antibiotic best practice in food production looks like, with some countries taking a strong risk based approach and disagreements with whether ionophores are to be classed as antibiotics. The finalised Standards will have trade implications if jurisdictions do not allow imports used with non-approved antibiotics. * A further meeting to discuss food standards is scheduled in the Republic of Korea in December 2019. New Zealand (MPI) is a co-chair on monitoring and surveillance.   ***New Zealand Veterinary Council***   * A new Director-General will be announced soon and an update will be sent to all attendees.   **Action:**   1. MoH to put the MPI team in touch with the Therapeutic Products Bill team. |
| 3 | **Environment scan**  ***Update on Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and next steps***   * MoH gave an update on the draft AMR recommendations from the JEE process and next steps. * The draft Mission report from the external evaluation team has been circulated to all government agencies for review and feedback. The final report will be published on the WHO website once agreed.   ***World Health Organization***   * The WHO has announced that AMR is one of the top ten threats to global health: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/ten-threats-to-global-health-in-2019>   ***Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand (HQSC) – Atlas of healthcare variation***   * HQSC have drafted an atlas of healthcare variation on community use of antibiotics, which has gone to the health sector for feedback. It allows comparison of antibiotic use by area and ethnicity. Link as follow: [https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/health-quality-evaluation/projects/atlas-of-healthcare-variation/community-antibiotic-use-draft](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=5305&d=pq7P3JASOAu3nAsJHXrQ7FhZEy7KXgx2LMD3Hbk40w&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2ehqsc%2egovt%2enz%2four-programmes%2fhealth-quality-evaluation%2fprojects%2fatlas-of-healthcare-variation%2fcommunity-antibiotic-use-draft).   ***European veterinary legislative change***   * Legislative change in Europe regarding veterinary medicine is now in force, and specifies which antibiotics can be used for veterinary practice. This has raised concerns with importers of animal products as it imposes requirements on third parties on antibiotic use, and could potentially lead to blocks importing into the EU. |
| 4 | **Status of budget bid**   * Under review with responses to queries as needed. |
| 5 | **Initial revisions to the AMR Action Plan activities (Year Two - Five)**   * Agreement to provide the proposed revisions to the AMR Action Plan activities to HARC and Primary Industries Coordination Groups in advance of their upcoming meeting on 19 March. Their feedback will be sought, including consideration of key priorities and where they may already have work underway/be able to partner in delivering. * Under Priority Action Area 12: *Develop a National Programme or Standard for AMS [...] -* noted that national data on AMR prescribing by prescriber type is very poor. The data is not granular enough to understand the picture, so this action needs to be amended before it goes to a wider audience.   **Actions:**   1. MoH to revise Priority Action Area 12 of the draft. 2. MoH to distribute the draft revisions to year two – five activities to coordination group members ahead of joint meeting on 19 March. 3. MoH and MPI to integrate feedback from coordination groups following 19 March meeting and co-chairs to determine whether final version to be circulated and approved by AMR Governance Group members out of session or whether a meeting is required. |
| 6 | **Draft Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance**   * In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly had a high level discussion with key international organisations, including WHO and FAO on global action to address AMR. This discussion led to the IACG (Interagency Coordination Group) on AMR being established. * The draft recommendations of the IACG have been circulated for review by the Secretary- General of the United Nations and we have an opportunity to provide a response (link to draft recommendations: <https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/Draft_IACG_recommendations_for_public_discussion_290119.pdf?ua=1>). * Agreed that a response would be provided, noting support for the principles of the recommendations and preference that existing mechanisms be used to implement recommendations where possible.   **Action:**   1. MoH to circulate draft bullet points to the AMRGG for comment and approval before responding on the IACG recommendations. |
| 7 | **Next steps**   * The need to raise the profile of AMR work was noted – including the risks, challenges, and key emerging events e.g. significant outbreaks. Agreed that the joint briefing to Ministers following revisions to the AMR Action Plan is one mechanism that could be used for this (see action #3). * Proposed that strategic use of cross-DHB resources be investigated. * Agreed that the Ministry of Health would create the first draft meeting agenda for the joint HARC and Primary Industries Coordination Group meeting on 19 March.   **Actions:**   1. MoHto draft a Weekly Report item on the upcoming HARC meeting. 2. MoH to draft the 19 March joint HARC and Primary Industries Coordination Group meeting agenda. |
| 8 | **Other business**   * Next meeting: August 2019   **Action:**   1. MoH to arrange date for next meeting and circulate calendar invitation. |

**Table of Actions:**

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| 1. | MPI to look into a review of the research on the role of companion animals and lead next steps, including discussion with the NZVA. | MPI |
| 2. | MoH to consider AMR in wider discussions on alignment of research agendas. | MoH |
| 3. | MPI to draft joint Ministerial briefing once revisions to Action Plan activities agreed. | MPI |
| 4. | MoH to arrange previous minutes to be published online once cross-ministry team established. | MoH |
| 5. | MoH to put the MPI team in touch with the Therapeutic Products Bill team. | MoH |
| 6. | MoH to revise Priority Action Area 12 of the draft. | MoH |
| 7. | MoH to distribute the draft revisions to year two – five activities to coordination group members ahead of joint meeting on 19 March. | MoH |
| 8. | MoH and MPI to integrate feedback from coordination groups following 19 March meeting and co-chairs to determine whether final version to be circulated and approved by AMR Governance Group members out of session or whether a meeting is required. | MoH and MPI |
| 9. | MoH to circulate draft bullet points to the AMRGG for comment and approval before responding on the IACG recommendations. | MoH |
| 10. | MoHto draft a Weekly Report item on the upcoming HARC meeting. | MoH |
| 11. | MoH to draft the 19 March joint HARC and Primary Industries Coordination Group meeting agenda. | MoH |
| 12. | MoH to arrange date for next meeting and circulate calendar invitation. | MoH |