DEFRA ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE CO-ORDINATION (DARC) GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY FIRST MEETING
9 FEBRUARY 2017; 11:00 – 16:00

Present: Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute (AFBI)
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Health Protection Scotland (HPS)
Public Health England (PHE)
Scottish Government (SG)
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
University of Birmingham (UoB)
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)
Welsh Government (WG)

1. Update on Recent Findings: 01 September-31 December 2016

1.1 England & Wales -

- An increase in *Salmonella Typhimurium* DT104 was detected in the latter part of year, identified in sheep and cattle. The serovar presented the classic five resistances; ampicillin, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, sulphonamides and tetracycline.
- The majority of monophasic *S. Typhimurium* were from pigs. 2 variants were detected with slightly different phylogeny. Occurrence of 4,5,12:i has increased by 18% from the previous year, whereas occurrence of 4,12:i has decreased by 44% from the previous year.
- A single case of *Salmonella* Goldcoast was found in broilers.
- Ampicillin resistance was detected in *H. parasuis,* responsible for Glassers disease in pigs.
- No ESBLs or LA-MRSAs reported in the last six months.

1.2 Scotland -

- Three cases of *S. typhimurium* were detected from abattoirs in England.
- One ESBL of bovine origin was detected during scanning surveillance from the faeces of a healthy animal.
- Six canine S. pseudintermedius were also detected, the most cases that have ever been reported.

1.3 Northern Ireland -

- Nine *S. typhimurium* were detected within the 6 month reporting period, with the majority found in pig products.
- 3 monophasic *S.* typhimurium were detected in animals which were submitted to post mortem. The remainder were detected in food submitted from private laboratories for positive confirmation.

- 14 bovine ESBL isolates were also identified from milk submitted for diagnosis, 11 of which were from calves, one presenting with *S.* Dublin mixed infection. Two isolates were also derived from pigs, with a suspension of meningitis on farm.
- One mec A, spa type t12250 positive MRSA was detected in the liver tissue of a pig, later confirmed by PHE as spa type t034. It is also known that this pig producer has imported pigs from European endemic country.

2. Update on Consumption Data Projects

The VMD gave an update on the progress of species specific consumption data projects.

Pigs: The electronic medicine book for pigs (eMB pigs) is an industry led electronic medicine recording software launched in April 2016 that enables producers to upload details of antibiotics used on the farm and benchmark their use with similar farms across the country. The system is managed by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board Pork (AHDB-Pork). Using eMB pigs is being strongly encouraged by AHDB, National Pig Association (NPA) and Pig Veterinary Society (PVS). Pig producers in Scotland are required to add antibiotic usage data to eMB pigs as part of the Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) assurance scheme. Use of eMB-pigs will also become a requirement by the Red Tractor (RT) assurance scheme at the end of this year (RT represents 90% pig farms in England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Poultry: The British Poultry Council (BPC), who represent 90% production for chicken (meat), turkey and duck, started collecting antibiotic use data from their producers in 2011, as part of their Antimicrobial Stewardship Scheme. This data is then aggregated, anonymised and the amount of active ingredient used per antibiotic class is then provided annually to the VMD and published in the UK-VARSS report. The BPC Antimicrobial Stewardship Scheme also incorporates restrictions on prophylactic use and the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics, and the outcome has been a 43% drop in antibiotic use between 2012 and 2015 despite a 5% increase in production over the same period, and a 52% reduction in fluoroquinolone use between 2014 and 2015.

Cattle: The system for data collection in cattle and sheep is currently under development and a specific stakeholder group has been created by the Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG). CHAWG have been discussing the need for an industry owned Data Collection Hub that can link with existing data sources and movement records.

European update: An amended version of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations was published in 2014 and specified that antibiotic use should be recorded in addition to antibiotic sales. The European Medicines Agency commenced a project called ESVAC (European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption) in April 2010 to develop a harmonised approach for the collection and reporting of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals from EU Member States. A specific subset of this group, the species expert group, leads on development of antimicrobial usage systems in the three priority sectors: pig, poultry and cattle; and are currently drafting guidance for how to collect antibiotic usage data, to be made available in March/April for public consultation.

3. EU Update

3.1 CVMP Update

A CVMP Update Paper updating the DARC group on the progress of the CVMP strategy on antimicrobials was circulated prior to the meeting. Of importance:

- The joint EMA/EFSA scientific opinion of the RONAFA advisory group on measures to reduce the need to use antimicrobial agents in animal husbandry in the EU was published on 24th January 2017, and considers alternatives to antimicrobials and alternative husbandry systems (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170124-0).
- The EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for the development of AMR due to the feeding of calves with milk containing residues of antibiotics was also published on 27th January (https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170127). The opinion considers the AMR risk from feeding clostridium from cows treated with antimicrobials at drying-off, and the risk from feed milk from cows treated for mastitis at lactation. The report also discusses possible risk management options to reduce antimicrobial residues in milk.
- The JIACRA project will report in June this year, findings from 2013-2015 for the consumption of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of resistance from humans and food-producing animals.

4. Summary of International Collaborations and AMR-Related Activities

The DARC group reported on international collaborations they have partaken in.

5. One-Health Report

The VMD gave an update on progress on the One-Health report, which is planned for publication in December 2017. The plan is to publish on progress against the ten recommendations which featured in the last report as well as the previously published statistics on annual antimicrobial sales for animals, as well AMR seen in animals and meat using the EU monitoring data, complimenting it with clinical surveillance data where applicable. Alongside *E. coli, Salmonella* and *Campylobacter,* LA-MRSA will be covered also.

6. AMR & Companion Animals

Representatives from SAC Veterinary Services, SAVSNet and VetCompass gave presentations on the antimicrobial sales and resistance data for companion animals which they hold.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 29 June 2017

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