

**DEFRA ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE CO-ORDINATION (DARC) GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY SECOND MEETING
29 June 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)
Biotope Ltd
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Marine Harvest
Public Health England (PHE)
Scottish Government (SG)
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)
Welsh Government (WG)

1. Update on Recent Findings: 01 January - 30 April 2017

1.1 *England & Wales –*

- The group discussed the colistin concern that arose two years ago; the farmer was asked to abstain from using colistin and to adopt appropriate hygiene procedures. The outcome was a success as weaned pigs no longer receive antibiotics. A final visit was undertaken a month ago and no resistant organisms were detected on the farm or in slurry samples.
- Reports of *S. typhimurium* DT104 decreased by 27%, however an increase in submissions of duck origin was observed. *S. typhimurium* strains other than DT104 reported an increase in full susceptibility.
- A decrease in 4,5,12i monophasic *S. typhimurium* from primary pig isolates were reported. There are some isolates that are appearing in pet feed, the likely explanation is that the pigs are infected and then their products are made into pet food.
- The majority of ESBL isolates were detected in cattle and all of the resistance patterns found in chickens were CTXM-1. The phenotype appeared to be different across species and a 50:50 ESBL:ampC split was observed.

1.2 *Scotland –*

- The cattle units had DT104 *Salmonella typhimurium* isolates identified. DT193 isolates were observed in some pigs and DT12 isolates were observed in calves from South West Scotland.
- No ESBLs were reported since the start of the year. However, two ESBLs were identified from English isolates and a further two from Northern Ireland.
- Macaques were found with t008 MRSA strain, the only strain seen since 2004. There was also an MRSA finding in hedgehogs.
- Six findings of *S. pseudintermedius* we reported in dogs, which correlates with findings from the previous year.

1.3 Northern Ireland –

- Eight *S. typhimurium* isolates were identified from pork and associated products.
- Monophasic *S. typhimurium* was found to be heavily biased towards pork with one isolate from a chicken.
- 44 ESBL isolates were identified, including two that were sent to Scotland. 39 were derived from bovine origin and were detected in calves.
- 68 samples were submitted for testing and none found to test positive for MRSA.

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 now includes data for 2015 and 2016 that represents approximately 70% of the pig industry. This is expected to increase further when eMB pigs becomes a Red Tractor requirement on the 1st October. The data is expected to be published in the VARSS report at the end of this year

Poultry: The BPC published their Antibiotic Stewardship Report on the 26th June and reported a 71% reduction in the total use of antibiotics between 2012 and 2016.

Cattle: Work has been undertaken with the CHAWG group and AHDB to collect antibiotic usage data for the UK beef and dairy industry. This anonymised, aggregated data will be received shortly, and again it is intended to present the data in this VARSS report. For pigs, dairy and beef, the data will be presented as total mg/kg for the UK as well as mg/kg for the Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics.

Sector-specific Targets: Significant progress has also been made in the development of sector-level targets. RUMA set up a targets taskforce and have held a series of workshops with industry representatives. Task Force members are currently consulting with specialists and organisations within their sectors to finalise draft proposals by the end of June. The VMD will then provide initial feedback on these proposals and, once received, each livestock sector has until the end of September to finalise their objectives, which will be compiled into a report for release at the RUMA conference on the 27th October.

3. EU Update

3.1 CVMP Update

Highlights:

- Regarding zinc oxide, re-examination led the CVMP to support the previous opinion that marketing authorisations should be withdrawn due the risk posed to the environment. A meeting of the Commission's Standing Committee on VMPs was held on the 19th June and concluded that zinc oxide should be removed within 5 years. This time scale is to allow adjustment for producers, to improve animal husbandry and develop alternative treatments.
- Two reflection papers have been produced, on the use of Aminoglycosides in animals in the EU and on Off-label use (OLU) of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine in the EU: The first suggests aminoglycosides should be placed in an intermediate

category between Category 2 and Category 1. The second reviews the different OLU practices and aims to identify the associated AMR risks.

- The JIACRA II report was published on the 30th June 2017. The report shows correlation with existing published data regarding antibiotic use in humans and animals leading to resistance.

4. Summary of International Collaborations and AMR-Related Activities

The DARC group reported on their current international collaborations.

5. Update on the Codex Task Force on AMR

Codex Alimentarius last year re-established a task force on AMR. This year's Codex is to fully endorse the output of the working group that was chaired by the FSA in London at the end of last year. The work of the task force will be linked through the establishment of electronic working groups and the group will begin work on the development of guidelines for surveillance of AMR in food and on revising the 2005 Code of Practice.

6. AMR in Aquaculture

Representatives from CEFAS, Marine Harvest and Biotope Ltd gave an overview on the sector and the implications of antibiotic use and resistance.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14th September 2017

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