

**DEFRA ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE CO-ORDINATION (DARC) GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING**  
**08 September 2015**

**Present**

Agri-Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI)  
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)  
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)  
Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)  
Department of Health (DH)  
Food Standards Agency (FSA)  
Health Protection Scotland (HPS)  
Public Health England (PHE)  
Royal Veterinary College (RVC)  
Scottish Government (SG)  
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)  
University of Exeter  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

**LA-MRSA**

The VMD updated the group on progress with implementing surveillance to look for the presence of LA-MRSA in the UK.

- Ministers have given approval for a survey to sample people to look for the presence of LA-MRSA.
- The LA-MRSA Surveillance Forum met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 to discuss formulating zoonosis guidance for vets and farmers on LA-MRSA.
- Members of the LA-MRSA Surveillance Forum are meeting with representatives from the cattle, pig, egg and poultry industries, to work on the guidance further..
- VMD have also met with members of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWB) and members from the Defra Trade Team to discuss.

The group discussed the need to maintain strong communications with stakeholders and Defra Trade Teams as work progresses. The group also discussed the need to harmonise testing for the presence of LA-MRSA across the UK, prior to publication of findings. The CHAIR concluded that any isolates from animal sources should go through the same sets of confirmatory tests.

**Update on recent findings**

APHA, AFBI and SRUC gave an update on recent findings of AMR in their respective countries between 01 May 2015 – 31 July 2015.

England & Wales:

- 44% of *S. Typhimurium* recovered from APHA's scanning surveillance activities were fully susceptible to all antimicrobials which they were tested against; an increase on previous years.
- APHA updated the group on an incidence of Monophasic *Salmonella Typhimurium* where a follow-up visit is planned.
- Cefepodoxime resistance in clinical diagnostic *E. coli* from chickens was 14% in 2012, 8% in 2013 and 4% in 2014.

#### Northern Ireland:

- AFBI updated the group that 10 *Salmonella Typhimurium* isolates were detected during this period from all food products (originating from pork factories). 22 monophasic *Typhimurium* isolates were detected – an increase on previous years but this change may be due to seasonality.
- 12 *E. coli* out of 192 tested (7 from calves – 1 faecal and 1 from a lung, 2 from adult cow milk samples, 1 from adult cow faeces, and 2 from poultry faeces) were phenotypically consistent with ESBL producing *E. coli* – which is a reasonably low number compared with previous reports.
- 51 *S. aureus* isolates were tested for ceftiofur resistance in this period. LA-MRSA was confirmed in three strains, belonging to the same pig by PCR.

#### Scotland:

- *Salmonella Typhimurium* DT193 was isolated from a pig (1), bovine (1), and pheasants (3). DT193 from the pig and bovine sources presented with resistance pattern ApStSxTe. DT40 was recovered from 8 pheasants – 1 isolate presented with resistance pattern SpSxTe. 1 *Salmonella Kedougou* isolate was recovered from a bovine source (ApClSpSxTe) and 1 Group E4 *Salmonella* (ApKaSpSxTm) was recovered from a partridge. 1 ESBL producing *E. coli* was recovered from a bovine milk sample.
- SRUC updated the group that one MRSA had been isolated from a macaque which was spa type t008.

#### **Presentation of R&D Projects: University of Exeter**

Representatives from the University of Exeter presented on a Defra funded research project titled 'Systematic review and social research to further understanding of current practice in the context of using antimicrobials in livestock farming to inform appropriate interventions to reduce antimicrobial resistance within the livestock sector'.

#### **Presentation of R&D Projects: RVC**

Representatives from the Royal Veterinary College presented on 'VetCompass: Usage of antibacterial agents in small animal veterinary practice in the UK'.

## **UK-VARSS Report**

VMD presented initial findings and trends from the 2014 UK-VARSS Report. The 2014 report is being drafted and is due to be published on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 on the VMD Gov website.

## **Contingency Planning**

VMD updated the DARC group on two changes which have been made to the VMD's Contingency Planning SOP which outlines the actions to be taken in the event that a resistant bacteria considered to be of high risk is isolated by animal health labs in the UK. VMD sought the comment of the group on these changes by the 22/09/2015:

- Addition of a list of organisms/resistances that are of particular concern and warrant alert under the SOP under Annex 3.
- Addition of the RES-ALERT form under Annex 4.

## **EU Update**

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

## **AOB**

**Pig Industry Medicines Hub** – VMD updated the group on progress with developing the UK Pig Industry Medicines Hub. The target date for launch of the full system is April 2016.

**European Antibiotics Awareness Day (EAAD)** – VMD gave an update on the activities of the VMD and industry groups surrounding EAAD.

**Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance in Scotland (CARS)** – PHS gave an update on activities of the CARS group: CARS have been discussing antimicrobial usage data capture and coordination of clinical surveillance activities.

**LA-MRSA Rapid Communication Discussion:** AFBI sought the comments of the group on a LA-MRSA Rapid Communication as circulated prior to the meeting.

**DARC Wastemilk Position Paper** – The group discussed the merit of re-visiting guidance on the practice of feeding wastemilk to calves in light of the forthcoming publication of a VMD funded research project, VM0513, on 'Assessing the risks of antimicrobial usage in cattle with respect to antibiotic resistant bacteria: risk assessment, epidemiological analysis and laboratory investigation'.

The group consensus was not to review the DARC position paper as insufficient evidence is available at this time.

**Date of next meeting.**

11:00-16:00, 24 November 2015.