

**Commission on Patient Safety and
Quality Assurance**

**Minutes of 3rd meeting
23rd March 2007**

Summary of Action Points

	Action	By whom	Deadline
1	Administrative resources to be sought for sub-groups to facilitate research support	Secretariat	Next Meeting
2	Short Presentation on Medical Practitioner Bill and Pharmacy Bill	Dermot Smyth to arrange	Next Meeting
3	Subgroup reports to be produced	Chair (or deputy chair) of each subgroup	ASAP
	Circulate	Secretariat	

Commission Members in attendance:

Chair: Dr. Deirdre Madden, Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork

Dr. Richard Brennan, General Practitioner, Kilkenny

Dr. Eibhlín Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Children

Ms Mary Duff, SRN, Director of Nursing St Vincent's Hospital

Mr Paul Fox, Process Engineering Manager, Bausch and Lomb, Waterford

Dr. Mary Hynes, Director of Quality and Risk, National Hospitals Office, Health Services Executive

Ms Margaret Murphy, Patient/Carer representative, Cork City

Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Clinical Indemnity Scheme

Mr Dermot Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Children

Professor Fergal Malone, Professor of Obstetrics, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Dr Alf Nicholson, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda

Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patient/Carer Representative, Dublin

Dr Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health for the South West Region of England, Bristol, England

Secretariat:

Mr Aidan Clancy, Department of Health and Children

Ms Susan Reilly, Department of Health and Children

Apologies :

Dr. Tracey Cooper, CEO, Interim Health Information and Quality Authority
Mr Tim Delaney, Head of Pharmacy, AMNCH
Ms Edwina Dunne, National Head of Quality of Risk, Office of the CEO, Health Services Executive

Introductions

The Chair welcomed Dr Eibhlín Connolly to the Commission. Dr Connolly is replacing Dr Philip Crowley as a member of the Commission following a recent reallocation of work within the Chief Medical Officer's Division in the Department of Health and Children.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

Apologies were listed and noted.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence

Correspondence dealing with Medication Safety Initiatives was circulated and discussed.

Agenda Item 4 - Subgroups

Each subgroup Chair presented a verbal report from the earlier subgroup meetings. A written report from each subgroup will be prepared by the Chair of each subgroup and circulated via the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5 – A paper on the Reform of the Health Services was presented by Mr. Dermot Smyth, Department of Health and Children

The main points from this presentation were:

- The last 5 years has seen the most profound change in public health services in the history of the State
- Heretofore, the Department was “fire fighting” at an executive level. This was not the optimum use of resources as a more appropriate role for the Department would have been to regulate rather than micro-manage the health system
- The Brennan Commission and the Prospectus Report both recommended the establishment of one national executive function to manage the health service
- The HSE came into effect on 1st January, 2005 and is responsible for service provision

- The HSE now has its own funding voted by the Oireachtas (i.e. funding for HSE is not channelled via the department of Health and Children) but the Department is heavily involved in the annual estimates campaign which sets the levels and breakdown of funding for HSE
- Administrative staff have an important role to play with regard to safety and quality of health services
- The Department is now responsible for policy, legislation, advising government and evaluating the system via the HSE's National Service Plan
- HIQA is in the process of being established on a formal statutory basis; HIQA will hold the organisation to account. The priority for HIQA is to implement a revised inspection regime for nursing homes for older people.
- GP consultations, which number approximately 4 times the number of hospital episodes (inpatient, outpatient, A&E), carry significant risk with regard to quality and safety and merits considerable attention
- Since 1997, Ireland has seen the biggest increase in spending on health services (approximately 250%) in the history of the OECD. We are now midway in the per capita spending league table of the 30 OECD countries
- The Department is now in a position to undertake necessary revisions of legislation such as the Health Act, 1970.

Agenda Item 6- Briefing by HSE representatives on the HCAI/MRSA strategy.

Dr Mary Hynes gave a briefing on the Report of the 3rd Prevalence Survey of Health Care Associated Infections in Acute Hospitals. A summary of Dr Hynes presentation is outlined below:

- UK 3rd Prevalence Study Survey of Health Care Associated Infection carried out in Ireland in 2006 – among the findings are that 1 in 200 people admitted to hospital had MRSA
- The prevalence of HCAIs and MRSA are lower in Ireland than in other countries illustrated. It was noted however that caution should be exercised in interpreting such data as surveys may have been carried out at different times, using different methodologies or different data definitions.
- The correlation between Ireland and the UK is imperfect as UK has a lower rate of antibiotic consumption than Ireland
- Consumption of penicillin in Ireland is higher than combined consumption of all antibiotics in the Netherlands
- HSE have developed a plan and provided funding to combat HCAIs. The 5-year targets are
 - To reduce HCAI by 20%
 - To reduce MRSA infections by 30%
 - To reduce antibiotic consumption by 20%
- The main elements of the plan are concerned with
 - National Infection Control Standards
 - Governance
 - Surveillance
 - Education of the Public
 - Education of staff, professional and non-professional

- Antibiotic prescribing
- Facilities
- Belgium has found that the key to countering HCAs is to run professional and public education simultaneously
- Questions were raised as to the regularity of data collection, public access to data and the status of the building environment, i.e. were there adequate isolation facilities available in hospitals.
- Dr Hynes advised that the HSE intends to produce quarterly reports, but it will be 2008 before all the necessary systems are in place.
- Items noted in discussion
 - The need to reassess the requirement for certain procedures on each and every occasion, particularly repeat procedures, which increase risk of HCAs (e.g. bladder catheters, central lines)
 - The danger of "over assessing"
 - The problem of encouraging healthcare workers to challenge their colleagues on safety issues
 - The need to have recommendations in the Strategy for the Control of Antimicrobial Resistance in Ireland (SARI) regarding isolation requirements in all new building development
 - The value of "clever" bacterial resistant materials

Agenda Item 7 – Any other Business

Dr Madden invited members to forward ideas for speakers, presentations or agenda items to her.

Next meeting

26 April 2007 – **Gresham Hotel**, O’Connell St, Dublin 1 – 11:00am
(Tea / coffee available from 10:30am)

COMMISSION MEMBERS - PLEASE NOTE **CHANGE OF VENUE** FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Signed _____

Date _____

Dr Deirdre Madden
Chairperson
Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance