

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting	
Full NIAC meeting	Date: 18.00, 22.02.2021 Venue: Zoom
Members in attendance NIAC – K Butler, R MacDonell, K Connolly, B Corcoran, N Bambury, C Maguire, E Cassidy, C O’Broin, S Cotter, A Hughes, C Keane, P O’Reilly, M Nolan, C Migone, C Murphy, A Clarke, A Weidenhammer, L Jessop, R Fitzgerald, E Moylett, M Ward, B Cleary, C McDonnell HPRA – D O’Connor HSE – K Kelleher DOH – C Bonner RCPI – S Creaton	Apologies C DeGascun

	It was agreed:	Action No.
1	Introductions	
2	Minutes Update on actions from meeting January 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritisation- first part finished 2. Chapter 5a has been updated 3. Report in from BCG group 4. Responded to DCMO-derogation-on hold pending evaluation of further evidence No amendments or corrections to last minutes. Minutes accepted	
3	Statement of Interests Nil declared	
4	Terms of Reference/membership TOR accepted by RCPI Council. For publication to RCPI NIAC webpage.	

	It was agreed:	Action No.
	Demit dates discussed. Continuity noted to be a priority in the current pandemic climate. Members facing demit invited to continue. One pending response.	
5	<p>Governance Business case for interim and longer-term strategy with RCPI at present. Draft NIAC-Department of Health (DOH) communication SOP under NIAC review. Action: Draft return to DCMO</p>	1
6	<p>SARS-CoV-2 (Covid) Variants of concern Brief update of available and emerging evidence presented (re B.1.1.7,) and noted to be under ongoing review Vaccination programme Brief update of rollout presented. DOH currently reviewing two NIAC submissions from 17.02.21 re those aged 65-69 and the updated prioritisation for COVID-19. Chapter 5a Regular updates continue. Key revisions noted as a heading in each revision for clarity. Next revision will include updated epidemiology and priority group information when released by DOH. Priority Groupings Recommendation for prioritisation document presented. Wording addition to clarify intent of Table 1: Medical condition at very high risk of severe disease (Cancer) to read (new text in bold): All cancer patients actively receiving (and/or within 6 weeks of receiving) systemic therapy with cytotoxic chemotherapy, targeted therapy, monoclonal antibodies or immunotherapies and radical surgery or radiotherapy for lung or head and neck cancer Action: Letter to go to CMO, DOH re same Next steps Prioritisation workstream Ongoing review to include review of evidence for morbidity and mortality in the next age cohorts, those aged 50-64 and to examine evidence for the other groups yet to be vaccinated. Communications Press release in development with RCPI Communications Dept. Publication of recommendations to coincide with release of DOH policy.</p>	2

	It was agreed:	Action No.
	Confidentiality of NIAC documentation reiterated. Vaccine workstream Recommendations related to expected duration of immunity post COVID-19 infection and review of emerging evidence regarding number of vaccine doses and intervals under development.	
7	BCG Reports from BCG subcommittee reviewed. Agreed to prioritise a selective approach to vaccination based on evidence provided. Action: Draft recommendations to be developed and circulated.	3
8	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) No update	
9	Primary Immunisation No update	
10	Meningococcal Infection No update	
11	Varicella Zoster Virus Query by email about the dose, originating from BNF dose information. Evidence reviewed and agreement that current chapter content stands. Noted that HIQA HTA expected re VZ vaccine.	
12	Hepatitis B Email query re Hep B vaccination for non-responders, who have already had 2 courses. Query concerns Hep B products that are no longer available. Chapter needs to be amended to reflect this. Response sent. Action: update noted for inclusion in Chapter 9.	4
13	Chapter Updates Chapter 3 – Changes to be made include reference to those with chronic kidney disease and dose of vaccine and those under treatment with high dose immunosuppressants. Action: Chapter 3 update for circulation.	5
14	Vaccine injury redress scheme No update	
15	Correspondence Request from RCPI Council to consider joint development of a position statement in relation to doctors who chose not to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Agreed to proceed	

	It was agreed:	Action No.
	with draft development strongly endorsing vaccination of healthcare workers. Action: Working group to draft statement and circulate	6
	Letter from Joint Committee on Health requesting consideration of several issues raised at a recent meeting. Response to note that carers and those with medical conditions referenced in prioritisation document. The other 3 points raised do not fall under NIAC remit. Action: respond as noted	7
	Letter requesting reduction in 15-minute post vaccination observation time Action: Response to note no change from existing guidelines	8
16	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference made to sexual health clinics and access to HPV 9 vaccine. • Reference made to EU Health and Safety legislation. 	