



National Immunisation Advisory Committee

Name of Report **Annual Stated Meeting**
Reported by **Prof. Denis Gill**
Date of Meeting **Monday 18 October 2010**

Chairman

Prof Denis Gill will continue to serve as Chairman of the Committee having taking over from Prof. J.A.B. Keogh in January 2009.

Committee Remit

NIAC prides itself on being an enthusiastic, energetic, altruistic and scientific committee. The Committee held 8 meetings and attendance was very good. NIAC annual dinner was held in Nov 2009.

Members who have been appointed to the Committee

The Following have been nominated to sit on the National Immunisation Advisory Committee.

- Chair – President or his nominee (Dr. Denis Gill)
- Secretary – Registrar or his nominee Prof. Frank Murray
- Two Members of Council of RCPI (or their nominees) - (One representative to include a Consultant in Infectious Disease) – Dr. Karina Butler, Dr. Anna Clarke
- Representative of the Department of Health and Children - Dr. Eibhlin Connolly (*Alternate: Dr John Devlin*)
- Representative of the Irish College of General Practitioners – Dr. Mary Sheehan (*Alternate: Dr. Peter Harrington*)
- Representatives of the Faculties - Dr. Kevin Connolly, Dr. Darina O'Flanagan, Dr. Tom O'Connell, Dr. Mary Cafferkey
- Representative of the Virus Reference Laboratory, University College Dublin – Dr. Jeff Connell (*Alternate: Dr. Cillian De Gascun*)
- Representative of the Irish Medicines Board - Dr. Joan Gilvarry, (*Alternate: Dr. Kevin Blake*)
- Representative of the Irish Society of Travel Medicine - Dr. Elizabeth Gallagher, (*Alternate: To be determined*)
- Representative of the Department Of Health and Social Services, N.I. – Nurse Angela McLernon, (*Alternate: To be determined*)
- Representative of the Royal College Of Surgeons in Ireland – Dr. Sam McConkey, (*Alternate: To be determined*)
- Representative of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre – Dr. Suzanne Cotter
- Representative of the National Immunisation Office – Dr. Brenda Corcoran
- Representative of the Health Service Executive - Dr. Fiona Ryan, (*Alternate: Dr. Kevin Kelleher*)
- *Co- Opted Member, An Board Altranais* – Ms. Virginia Pye
- Recording Secretary – Dr. Jennifer Martin
- Ordinarily in Attendance – Chief Executive Officer

H1N1 Pandemic Vaccine

The NIAC made recommendations on H1N1 vaccines to high-risk groups, pregnant women, HCWs and others. Irish experience of H1N1 uptake was similar to other EU countries. The IMB received about 1500 reports of adverse reactions, mostly expected.

In Summer 2010,WHO declared the pandemic over. In the light of this and unproven reports of a temporal association between pandemic vaccine and narcolepsy, NIAC recommended in Sept 2010 the discontinuation of pandemic vaccine usage.

Recommendations for Seasonal Flu 2010-2011

Recommendations for seasonal flu 2010-2011, including administration to pregnant women have been sent to the CMO.

Rotavirus Vaccine

NIAC decided against the inclusion of Rotavirus vaccine in the routine ROI schedule. The NIAC acknowledges the very helpful medical data and pharmaco-economic evaluation provided by Dr M Barry's unit.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

NIAC recommended changing from 7-valent to 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine. This is to happen in Oct 2010.

BCG

The NIAC reiterated previous policy of routine neonatal BCG. Problems were experienced in Galway (manpower) and Cork (TB outbreak).

HPV Vaccination

NIAC was informed by the NIO of commencement of the HPV programme in schools in Summer/Autumn 2010. An uptake of 80% was recorded in the first cohort of 1200 girls. No unexpected adverse events were reported

National Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (Blue Book)

"Blue book" amendments are ongoing online. These include changes to the HPV and PCV chapters, a new chapter on Rotavirus and advice on management of analgesia during and post-vaccination. The routine use of sucrose /glucose solutions is encouraged in infancy, and the routine use of antipyretics discouraged at all ages.

Acknowledgements

The NIAC appreciates the commitment of all its members. The Committee is indebted to the HPSC for data provision and financial support without which it could not function. The NIAC thanks and compliments the work of its recording secretary Dr Jennifer Martin, who moves on at the end of 2010. Finally NIAC warmly thanks its efficient and industrious College secretary Ms Karen Doyle.

Prof. Denis Gill, FRCPI
Chair of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee