

## **Independent High-Risk Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) Panel**

**11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 14:30-16:30**

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

#### **Welcome, introductions and apologies.**

1. The Chair welcomed the panel members attending. The attendees were as follows: Jacqui Reilly (Chair), Martin Llewelyn, Jennie Wilson, David Farren, David Jenkins, Ema Swingwood, Adam Boies, Kerry Broom (Secretariat), Jordan Charlesworth (Secretariat) and Viviana Finistrella (Secretariat). The Chair welcomed Adam Boies as a new member of the panel – invited by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). Emma Hooker (ARHAI Scotland) and Lisa Ritchie (UK IPC Cell) were welcomed as guest speakers for agenda item 2. Apologies were received from Nick Murch, James Tysome, Mel Burden, Shaun Fitzgerald, Cariad Evans and Alistair Leanord.
2. The Chair thanked Gail Carson for her contribution to panel work and noted that she will be stepping back from panel involvement due to work commitments.

#### **Review and approval of minutes and actions**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as factually correct with no further comments. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting were discussed and updated.

#### **Presentation on perspectives of the state of the evidence reviewed to date to inform the extant AGP list, and what is needed next**

4. Emma Hooker (EH) Presented a summary from Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland on the state of play regarding AGPs. It was noted that the AGP list in the National Infection Prevention & Control Manual (NIPCM) was due to be reviewed in 2022/23, although it is now to be reviewed earlier, via the ARHAI Scotland systematic review standard two-person review methodology. The weak evidence base was acknowledged, and the chair recommended that aerobiologists, clinicians and IPC expertise be consulted for any decision making if expert opinion will be used.
5. The panel recommended that concepts and definitions of AGP should be reviewed in the context of emerging evidence (including aerobiology studies) in order to accurately determine risk. The search strategy for the panel previous review of procedures of concern is available publicly and should be considered as part of the process by ARHAI Scotland.

#### **International AGP developments update**

6. The Chair highlighted recent Australian guidance, released in February 2021 – which introduced the concepts of AGPs (procedures), AGBs (behaviours) and AGCs (conditions). It was noted that this required further research. The World Health Organization (WHO) research and development blueprint, was highlighted which

identifies the global IPC unit's research priorities as part of the wider COVID-19 research blueprint. This includes information on the AGP research gaps.

### **Consideration of CPR request (BMA, BAPIO) and how best for the panel to proceed**

7. A request from the British Medical Association (BMA) and British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) was received 16th February. The UK IPC Cell responded 18th March. This response was endorsed by the panel.

### **Update on the systematic review submission**

8. JW presented the latest draft of the manuscript - based on the systematic review work that informed panel recommendations on procedures of concern. JW noted a range of outstanding comments and panel members offered to address these outside of the meeting so the work could be submitted for publication.

### **Endorsement of the international review**

9. The final version of the international review piece, which was originally performed to support the recommendations on procedures of concern was presented and endorsed by the panel with thanks to Gail Carson, Lakshmi Manoharan and Martin Llewelyn – this will be published on the panel webpage.

### **Discussion of next steps for the panel**

10. The Chair noted that the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) office has suggested that having produced recommendations on the medical procedures of concern, the panel will now stand down, in line with the terms of reference.
11. The panel will submit its final advice on the state of the evidence, research needs and recommendations to the CMO.
12. The Chair noted that panel members would participate in a meeting with the NIHR AGP task & finish group and the AERATOR research group on 29 March 2021 to discuss the current state of the evidence in relation to AGPs. Panel members would also take part in the NIHR AGP task and finish group research prioritisation meeting on 22 April 2021.

### **AOB**

13. The panel was sighted of a pre-print from the AERATOR research group investigating aerosol risk & lung function testing<sup>1</sup> as well as a recent study investigating ventilation therapy, facemasks and aerosol emission<sup>2</sup> and an opinion piece on the aerosol

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<sup>1</sup> Sheikh et al., Risk and mitigation of aerosolisation from lung function testing: results from the AERATOR study, Pre-print available online, here: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.06.21253033v1>

<sup>2</sup> Nick M. Wilson, Guy B. Marks, Andrew Eckhardt, Alyssa Clarke, Francis Young, Frances L. Garden, Warren Stewart, Tim M. Cook, Euan R. Tovey  
medRxiv 2021.02.07.21251309; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.02.07.21251309>

generating medical procedure paradigm<sup>3</sup>. The ECDC sixth update to the guidance for Infection prevention and control for COVID-19 in the healthcare setting was shared with the panel to consider also.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> J. Morgenstern, “Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure” is a faulty paradigm, Available online, here: <https://first10em.com/aerosol-generating-medical-procedure-is-a-faulty-paradigm/>

<sup>4</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Infection prevention and control and preparedness for COVID-19 in healthcare settings – Sixth update, Available online, here: [https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Infection-prevention-and-control-in-healthcare-settings-COVID-19\\_6th\\_update\\_9\\_Feb\\_2021.pdf](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Infection-prevention-and-control-in-healthcare-settings-COVID-19_6th_update_9_Feb_2021.pdf)