

**Open Government Status:
Fully Open**

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

ACDP Work Plan for 2006/7

Issue

1. Members are asked to consider and agree the draft ACDP Work Plan for 2006/7.

Work Plans

2. Last year ACDP published a work plan for 2005/6 and this is given in Annex 3 for ease of reference. Based on last year's work plan and current developments, a work plan for 2006/7 has been drafted for Members' consideration (Annex 1).

3. Earlier this year, the ACDP TSE Working Group developed a separate work plan for 2006/7 and this was approved by ACDP in June, as attached in Annex 2.

4. The ACDP draft work plan contains specific objectives for 2006/7 with expected completion dates given. Members may note that certain objectives from last year's work plan have not been included in this year's plan. For example, monitoring the developments and provision of advice on the implications of UK cases of European Bat Lyssavirus is not included. This area will continue to be monitored by the ACDP as part of the committee's core work rather than a specific objective for this year.

Action

5. Members are asked to consider and agree the ACDP work plan for 2006/7 based on the draft objectives given in Annex 1.

Secretariat

September 2006

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP)

WORK PLAN FOR 2006/2007

1. To complete and update ACDP's 1996 BSE Occupational Guidance and publish on the ACDP website by Autumn 2006.
2. To complete and produce Guidance on Animal Isolators for small animals infected with Biological Agents and publish on ACDP website by Autumn 2006.
3. To complete the revision and update of the ACDP's 1996 Guidance: '*Management and Control of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers*' and publish on the ACDP website by Summer 2007.
4. To review and revise ACDP guidance dealing with Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs): '*Protection against blood-borne infections in the workplace: HIV and hepatitis 1996*' and look to issue revised guidance in the next Reporting Year.
5. To maintain oversight of developments related to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) and to drive forward delivery of the outputs of the ACDP TSE Working Group as given in the approved TSE Working Group's work plan for 2006/2007.
6. To review the recommended measures for pandemic influenza in relation to worker safety and public health.
7. To provide advice, where necessary, to the Department of Health/ Defra on the work of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS).
8. To produce the electronic newsletter of the ACDP: the *Biological Agents Bulletin* in Autumn 2006.

Work Plan for the ACDP TSE Working Group 2006/2007

- To draft an annex on pre-surgery assessment to ensure that patients with, or at risk of, CJD are identified before all surgical procedures that could involve contact with tissues of high or medium level infectivity and publish in summer 2006.
- To review the draft text on dialysis equipment and CJD and publish in autumn 2006.
- To draft an additional annex of the TSE guidance* to provide comprehensive and up-to-date advice on Ophthalmology and CJD infection control. Publish early 2007.
- In conjunction with the work of ESAC-Pr[†], to consider and draft relevant guidance when necessary on the handling and disposal of single-use surgical instruments.
- To supplement Part 3 (Laboratory Containment and control measures) with additional advice on the handling of samples in neuropathology and histopathology specifically from individuals identified as at risk of CJD.
- To review and update the current TSE guidance* when new evidence becomes available.
- To provide comment on the draft ACDP BSE Occupational Guidance prior to publication.

* The TSE guidance referred to above is the "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy agents: safe working and the prevention of infection" available from <http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acdp/tseguidance/>

The guidance was published in 2003 but individual sections are revised as further scientific information becomes available or future policy decisions need to be reflected.

[†] ESAC –Pr – The Engineering & Science Advisory Committee into the Decontamination of Surgical Instruments including Prion Removal)

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP)

Work Plan for 2005/6

- To develop comprehensive guidance on intentional work with highly pathogenic (ACDP HG 4 and others) agents including consideration of appropriate training.
- To investigate the options for revising and updating the current ACDP Guidance: '*Management and Control of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers*'
- To complete the update of the ACDP's 1996 BSE Occupational Guidance, which will be published on the ACDP website once complete.
- To produce the electronic newsletter of the ACDP: the *Biological Agents Bulletin*, in response to the information needs of the 'Dangerous Pathogens' stakeholder networks.
- To maintain oversight and monitor developments on the suggested link between *Mycobacterium Avium* subspecies *Paratuberculosis* (MAP) and human health.
- To provide advice on worker protection and public health implications for government guidelines dealing with possible bio-terrorism emergencies i.e. smallpox
- To review the suitability of the current ACDP guidance dealing with Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs): *Protection against blood-borne infections in the workplace: HIV and hepatitis 1996* (ISBN0113219539).
- To address issues relating to the worker safety and public health implications of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs). The work of the TSE WG also includes the production and monitoring of the current TSE guidance, as necessary.
- To monitor developments and provide advice on the implications of UK cases of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV).
- To provide advice, where necessary, to the Department of Health/Defra on the work of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS).