Alerting System for Chemical Health Threats Phase II (ASHTII)

WP2 Dissemination Strategy (D8)

WP Lead Partner
Kupferschmidt, H. Good, A.

Organisation
EAPCCT

Associate Partners
Orford R, Wyke S, Duarte-Davidson R
Mathieu-Nolf M, Linke JC, Nisse P
Edwards N, Tizzard Z, McParland M, Kennedy K, Sutton N
Dragelyte G, Badaras R
Pelclova D
Schaper A, Desel H

HPA
CHRU-Lille
GSTFT
HESC
GFH
UMG-GOE

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## CONTENTS

Work-package 2: DISSEMINATION Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Tasks related to the dissemination of results</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Mode of dissemination</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Establishing a dissemination network</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Dissemination via regional and international conferences</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Dissemination via National Poisons Information Centres</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Dissemination via National Public Health Officials</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Dissemination via the internet</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 Dissemination via publication</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 Milestones and deliverables</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORK-PACKAGE 2: DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

1.1 Introduction

The ASHT phase two project aims to improve existing public health knowledge which will benefit the EU Member States by providing a two tiered approach to sharing information and alerts across poisons centres, public health authorities and health Ministries as to the threats posed by chemical incidents including; accidental or deliberate releases and terrorist attack.

This will involve developing a strategy to facilitate efficient communication between European poisons centres, national public health authorities and enabling individual Poison Centres to report cases to a European Union Poison Centre (EUPC) Forum with an established strategy to alert Public Health Authorities to events which require posting to the rapid alert system for chemicals (RAS-CHEM).

Consultation with European Union (EU) Member States and stakeholders on health issues within community, national and international levels will be an essential component of this project to ensure that the outputs (EUPC Forum as an integral part of RAS-CHEM) are suitable for the requirements for the users of this communication and early warning chemical alert system (for example, poisons centres medical staff and poisons information specialists).

The ASHT Phase II project will deliver a communication and information exchange platform for poison centres in Europe (EUPC Forum). National public health officials will be engaged from the beginning of the project to provide steer in establishing policy and strategies for alerting Public Health Authorities when required to report events to RAS-CHEM.

The dissemination strategy employed for the duration of the project aims to encourage and support the use and testing of the EUPC Forum and RAS-CHEM. The ultimate aim is to test the availability and application of these reporting platforms throughout Europe for use by Public Health Authorities and Health Ministries to identify and respond to chemical incidents (either accidental or deliberate release).

1.2 Tasks related to the dissemination of results

1. Standard information material will be produced, such as information leaflets (Appendix A), slides for presentations, etc.

2. A public relation working group will be established with members from the HPA and the EAPCCT.

3. Dissemination of results and information via the websites of the HPA, WHO, and EAPCCT.

4. Provision of EUPC Forum and RAS-CHEM promotional material to relevant partners to be distributed at conferences and venues.
5. All partners will disseminate findings and will promote EUPC Forum and RAS-CHEM in their own country, and actively engage National public health officials and Health Ministries to raise awareness of the ASHTII project.

6. The Health Security Council and DG SANCO will be informed of progress, further disseminated across Europe by their representatives. Where applicable partners could contact and disseminate information to their neighbouring countries that are not involved in the project.

7. Networks will be established to distribute information. In time, all member state poison centres and public health authorities will be incorporated into these networks.

8. Project Information and promotional material will be translated from English into member states languages by individual project partners if they consider this appropriate.

9. Information distribution lists will be created.

1.3 Mode of dissemination

An internal project partner public relation working group will be set up comprising members from the HPA (Project Lead and Project Manager) and the EAPCCT will plan, perform and monitor the information dissemination process.

To ensure the ASHTII project has a reasonable impact, updated project summaries will be completed regularly to relevant external parties. The intervals are according to the progress of the project, but will be short enough to maintain interest in the project of stakeholders and future end-users.

The information delivered will be tailored to the need of the individual groups of recipients and will be distributed via different channels, e.g. websites, e-mails, printed material, discussion forums, information platforms.

1.4 Establishing a dissemination network

Two main dissemination sub-networks will be used to inform stakeholders about the intent, project progress and results:

1. Direct contacts to EU and national Public Health Officials (see also Work Package 5).

2. Dissemination into EU member states via their national Poisons Information Centres

The process of identifying and engaging National Public Health Officials is an ongoing process and was discussed in the month five teleconference and in the first workshop in month 6. Each partner will write a briefing paper on how their NPHA was identified and how the structure of incident reporting works in their country. Project leaflets and updates will be distributed to the NPHOs from M6. NPHA Collaborating partners will be
invited to provide comment on key documents and also encouraged to attend the WP7 workshop or interim meeting.

Distribution lists for EU NPHOs and EU poison centres will be created to disseminate relevant information. These networks will be used to inform potential future users and collaborators of key project updates; the networks will also be used to provide comment and testing of the RAS-CHEM and EUPC forum.

1.5 Dissemination via regional and international conferences

1. EAPCCT International Congresses

Posters, lectures, workshops and information platforms will be held at the EAPCCT International Congresses in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

- Stockholm, 2009 May 12-15
- Bordeaux, 2010 May 11-14
- 2011 (venue to be determined)
- 2012 (venue to be determined)

2. HPA annual congresses

- Warwick, September 2010-12

1.6 Dissemination via National Poisons Information Centres

National Poisons Information Centres will be informed about the intent, project progress and results regularly via the EAPCCT contact network (e-mails, newsletter, website www.eapcct.org).

Poisons Information Centres may provide language skills to translate information materials into local language if they consider this appropriate.

1.7 Dissemination via National Public Health Officials

Public Health Officials interested in the project will be invited to participate at meetings and conferences.

Additionally they will be informed via the National Poisons Information Centres who forward information materials to them.

1.8 Dissemination via the internet

Specific websites and web-pages will be created with regularly updated information on the project progress and results. These sites will be hosted on the HPA, WHO, EAPCCT and individual project partner’s websites. Project partner websites will also link to the
main ASHTII web-pages which will be hosted on the HPA website (www.hpa.org.uk/ASHTII)

A secure document gateway has been established to allow associate and collaborative partners to exchange documents about the project.

(https://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/sanco/asht2/home)

1.9 Dissemination via publication

Outcomes of the ASHT II project will be published in appropriate peer-review journals.

1.10 Milestones and deliverables

 Appendix B shows the time-line for the project including key events and phases of the work packages. According to Table 1 the deliverable date for the dissemination plan in ASHTII is M3 (17th of December 2008), and for the dissemination strategy M8 (May 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Work Package</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date (Wednesday)</th>
<th>Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Dissemination Plan</td>
<td>17th December 2008</td>
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<td>Evaluation Plan</td>
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<td>BICHAT engagement draft report</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>RAS-CHEM final report</td>
<td>31st September 2011</td>
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<td>29th June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Final project report</td>
<td>31st September 2011</td>
<td>36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Project Partners

Health Protection Agency, UK (Main Beneficiary)
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, UK
European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists
Universitätspazidizin Goettingen GIZ-Nord Poisons Centre, Germany
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Lille, France
General Faculty Hospital Prague, Toxicological Information Centre, Czech Republic
Health Emergency Situations Centre, Lithuania.

Collaborating Partners

World Health Organization (WHO)
National Poisons Information representation from Nordic countries (Norway); Centro de Informacion Antivenenos (Portugal); Department of Health (UK); Health Emergency Situation Centre (Lithuania); Ministry of Health (Czech Republic); BICHT representatives (Germany and France); Poisons Information Centre (Ireland).

Funding

The project is partly funded by the European Commission (Project Number 2007210).

Further Information

email: asht@hpa.org.uk
website: www.hpa.org.uk/ASHTII
Background

There is no standardised format or protocol for issuing alerts about chemical incidents across EU Member States or individual countries. To address this gap the European Union Public Health Programme funded a project (completed September 2008) to develop an Alerting System and Health surveillance system for the deliberate release of chemicals by Terrorists’ (ASHT I). The project established a Rapid Alert System for CHEMical incidents (RAS-CHEM) based on protocols and operating procedures originally developed for the EC Early Warning and Response System for Communicable Diseases (EWRS). Clinical symptoms associated with exposure to twenty chemicals were researched to develop syndromes for each agent, with a specific focus on chemicals likely to be used in a deliberate release.

ASHT I established the concept of setting up a rapid alert system and envisaged the structure required for a successful rapid Alerting System for chemical Health Threats (ASHT II). This second phase of the project will improve upon the current data transfer systems and information sharing and will involve developing mechanisms (and strategies) for analysing and reporting information between health professionals, from poisons centres to national public health officials.

Project Description

RAS-CHEM will be extended and developed into a health monitoring system for chemical health threats. The list of high risk chemical agents currently covered by the system will be harmonised and extended. A new web-based forum to enable EU Poisons Centres to exchange information about chemical incidents will be developed and tested. The EU Poisons Centres Forum (EUPC Forum) will be integrated into the RAS-CHEM framework to enable rapid and effective cross border communication about potential public health threats. Escalation of events from the EUPC Forum to RAS-CHEM will be established via a robust reporting protocol involving national public health officials. Stakeholders, end-users and collaborating partners will be integral in developing each component of the system throughout the project providing both steer and advice.

Project Objectives

- To improve the speed and effectiveness of the public health response to acute and potentially chronic effects following chemical incidents or emergencies.
- To develop an EUPC Forum that will function as a rapid communication and information exchange platform between EU Poisons Centres.
- To further develop RAS-CHEM and incorporate the EUPC Forum as an integral component of RAS-CHEM that will be part of the assembly of EU rapid alert systems.
- To engage national health ministries and public health authorities to provide steer and comment on their core information requirements for reporting events to RAS-CHEM.
- To develop a consensually agreed classification system of toxic substances based on substance use and toxicity, that is common to all EU Poisons Centres.
- To develop and incorporate harmonised terminology of symptoms and syndromes that would signal the possible release or exposure to toxic chemicals.
- To test and develop an IT infrastructure for automatic online data collection from Poisons Centres.
### Appendix B

| M | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|   | Oct '08 | Nov '08 | Dec '08 | Jan '09 | Feb '09 | Mar '09 | Apr '09 | May '09 | Jun '09 | Jul '09 | Aug '09 | Sept '09 | Oct '09 | Nov '09 | Dec '09 | Jan '10 | Feb '10 | Mar '10 | Apr '10 | May '10 | Jun '10 | Jul '10 | Aug '10 | Sept '10 | Oct '10 | Nov '10 | Dec '10 | Jan '11 | Feb '11 | Mar '11 | Apr '11 | May '11 | Jun '11 | Jul '11 | Aug '11 | Sept '11 |
| HPA | WP 1 | M | W | Test EUPC | M | D | R | W | F |
| EAPCCT | WP 2 | P | W | Dis | Dis | Dis | EU | R | Dis | Dis | Dis | Dis | Dis | Dis | Dis | Dis | EU | F |
| HPA | WP 3 | P | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UMG-GOE | WP 4 | | EUPC forum development | Refine forum | Data mining tool | Pilot study | Report on findings of pilot system | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HPA | WP 5 | | Engage BICHAT representatives | Engagement Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GFH | WP 6 | | Method agreement for harmonisation | Lit. review | Data harmonisation & matching | Testing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UMG-GOE | WP 7 | | RAS-CHEM refinements from ASHTI findings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| M = Meeting | W = Workshop | R = Report | D = Draft | F = Final Report | Dis = Dissemination | E = EAPCCT | H = HPA | EU = EUPHA | EUPC forum | RAS-CHEM | P = Plan | T = RAS-CHEM test |