

PHARMACISTS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms undergo mutations that enable them to resist the effects of antimicrobial agents, such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics. This results in antimicrobial agents becoming no longer effective in treating or preventing infections.

AMR could take us back to a time where treatable infections, injuries, medical and surgical procedures are life-threatening.

By 2050, if no action is taken:



10 million

global deaths¹



3.8% reduction

in annual global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)²

As a pharmacist,



You can halt the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials

Only dispense antimicrobials when needed and in accordance with guidelines. Where appropriate, re-assess antimicrobial prescription and prompt the prescriber to consider stopping or modifying treatment.

➔ **Ensure 4 rights: Time, Dose, Duration, Antimicrobial agent**



You are a key member of a multi-disciplinary team

Ensure proper documentation and support institutional or national AMR surveillance. Encourage prescribers to document antimicrobial indication, duration and review plans.

➔ Consider adopting the **World Health Organization AWaRe classification** as a tool to ensure the optimal use of antibiotics³



Your actions matter to infection prevention and control

Practise good hand hygiene and utilise the appropriate personal protective equipment according to your institution policies.



You can prevent infection and reduce the use of antimicrobials

Prevention is better than cure. Ensure your patient's vaccinations are up-to-date and encourage vaccination against preventable illnesses.



You can educate your patients and keep your knowledge up-to-date

Advocating for appropriate antimicrobial use can help in combating AMR. Counsel your patients on when antimicrobials should be taken, and the importance of not hoarding or sharing them with others.

➔ **Learn globally, act locally:** Watch a WAAW webinar with colleagues and discuss applicability to our local context

Thank you for taking action today to keep antimicrobials effective for all and preventing infections.

Scan to access free online antimicrobial stewardship resources and courses:



WHO



Coursera



ECDC

References:

1. O'Neill, J. (2016). Tackling drug-resistant infections globally: final report and recommendations. 2. World Bank Group. (2017). Drug-resistant infections: A threat to our economic future. 3. World Health Organization (WHO). AWaRe.

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