



European doctors' perspective on antimicrobial resistance

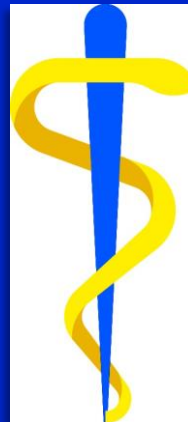
21 September 2023 | Brussels



We represent national medical associations across Europe, covering roughly:

1.7 million European Doctors from 37 countries

We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.



We promote the highest level of medical training and practice but also the provision of evidence-based, ethical and equitable healthcare services.

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(Austrian Medical Chamber)



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(Kosovo* Doctors Chamber)



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(Czech Medical Chamber)



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Verbindung der Schweizer Ärzte
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Lekarska Komora Srbije
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Eesti Arstide Liit
(Estonian Medical Association)



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Lietuvos gydytojų sąjunga
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The Netherlands
Koninklijke Nederlandse Maatschappij tot
Beoordeling der Geneesmiddelen (KNMG)
(Royal Dutch Medical Association)



Turkey
Türk Tabipleri Birliği



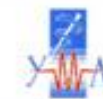
Finland
Suomen Lääkäriliitto/Finlands Läkarförbund
(Finnish Medical Association)



Luxembourg
Association des Médecins et Médecins-
Dentistes du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg



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British Medical Association



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A person wearing a white lab coat and a blue surgical mask is holding a petri dish. The petri dish contains a red agar medium with several vertical streaks of bacterial growth. The person is wearing blue nitrile gloves. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

Antimicrobial resistance



European doctors' focus

One Health

Digital health technologies

Prescribing and public health
interventions

AMR and AMC surveillance

Education and awareness raising

Development and access to antibiotics

Preventing pharmaceutical pollution

Doctors' knowledge and attitudes

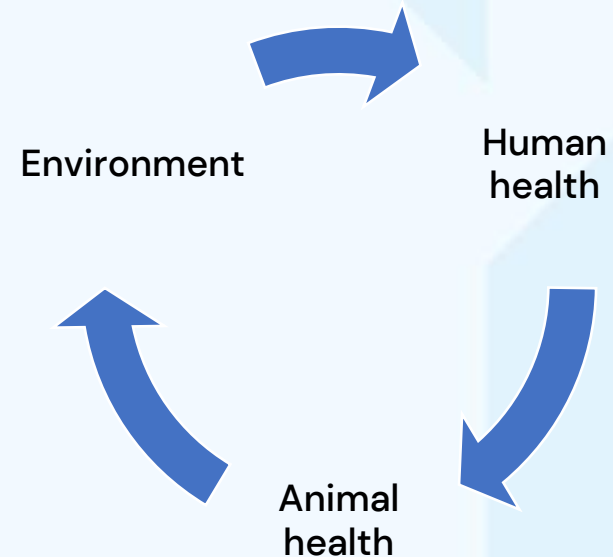
- 80% of doctors acknowledge that they are aware of their individual prescribing's impact on the spread of AMR (*CPME report based on ECDC data*).
- Guidelines on prescribing antibiotics should state that antibiotics should only be prescribed when necessary, and when prescribed should be in the dose appropriate for the infectious disease to be treated and as short as possible according to prevailing guidelines.



One Health



- An effective One Health approach is essential to minimise the unnecessary or inappropriate use of antibiotics and to prevent and control the transmission of resistance.



Prescribing and public health interventions

- Stewardship programmes at all levels of care.
- Infection prevention and control.
- Hand hygiene is the "single most important measure" according to WHO.
- Appropriate patient placement.
- IPC programmes may lead to a more than 30% reduction in healthcare associated infections, while hand hygiene practices can lead to a reduction of pathogen transmission in healthcare by at least 50%.



Prescribing and public health interventions

- Access to fast and efficient diagnostics.
- Adherence to legislation prohibiting sale of antibiotics without prescription.
- In the EU 8% of all antibiotics for human use are consumed without a prescription. A very large proportion of Europeans have taken antibiotics without justification (*European Commission, 2022*).
- Availability of OTC antibiotics on the Internet, including for animals.



Education and awareness raising

- Competences, attitudes, and societal expectations.
- Well-developed skills of general practitioners can help facilitating prudent use of antibiotics.
- The EU must raise awareness about the appropriate use and disposal of antimicrobials among healthcare professionals, veterinarians, the agricultural sector, and the public in a co-ordinated way.



EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY
A EUROPEAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

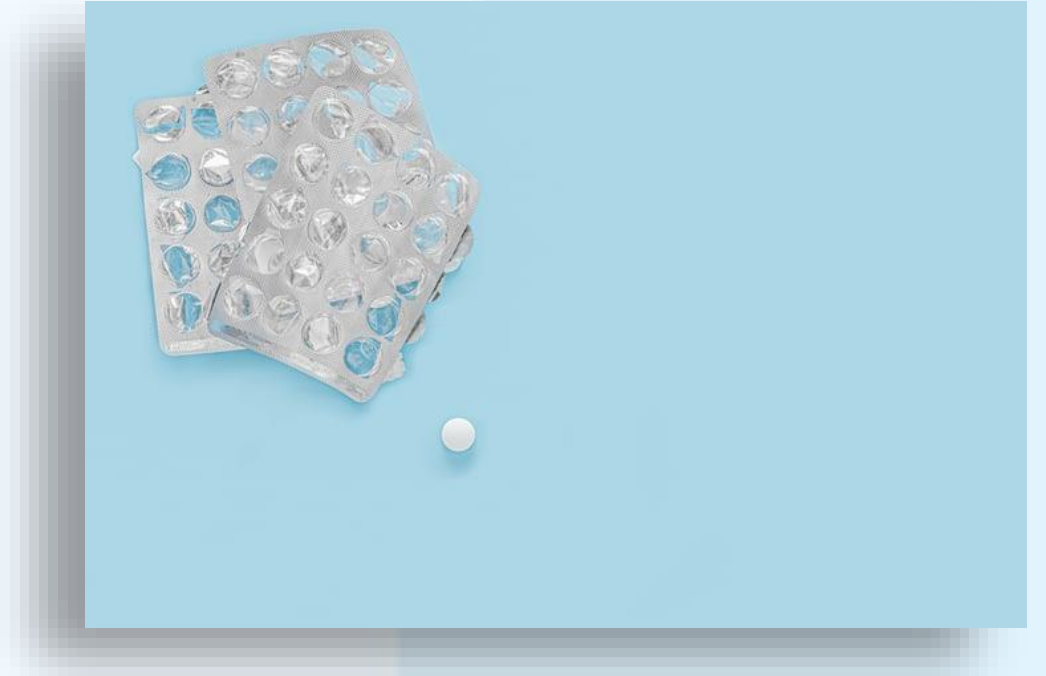
 65 Number of national resources

 36 Number of EAAD ambassadors

Development and access to antibiotics

Two major problems:

- antibiotic shortages
- lack of meaningful innovation.



Preventing pharmaceutical pollution leading to AMR

- Pharmaceutical effluent greatly contributes to AMR.
- Governments and regulators have a role in establishing evidence-based and enforceable targets for maximum levels of the pharmaceutical ingredients discharged into the environment.
- The European Union should consider the impact of offshore pharmaceutical manufacturing on the spread of AMR, including in imports and trade agreements.



AMR and AMC surveillance

- Data on antibiotic use, prescriptions, prices, resistance patterns, and trade in all concerned sectors should be publicly available and accessible to the medical and scientific community.
- Monitoring and tracking potential under prescription and adverse health effects of decreasing antibiotic use.



Digital health technologies



- Rapid on-line consultations and quick prescriptions can result in over-prescribing of antibiotics and other medicines.
- Face-to-face consultations should remain a gold standard wherever possible. Relevant clinical and diagnostic examination should be performed before any treatment is initiated.



CPME Policy on Antimicrobial Resistance



POLICY APRIL 2023

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

Policy on Antimicrobial Resistance

Main Messages:

1. Prudent prescribing of antibiotics is a responsibility of each practicing doctor in Europe and worldwide.
2. Doctors must prioritise the narrow-spectrum antibiotics while considering individual patient's needs.
3. Decisive political action is needed to ensure the prudent use of antibiotics and to improve infection prevention and control.
4. The European Union needs a common approach to antibiotic stewardship programmes, that will be adapted to healthcare delivery settings, local context and that will put emphasis on prescribing.
5. Each healthcare facility should be encouraged to establish and provide necessary funding and resources for AMR stewardship programmes.
6. Healthcare professionals must have access to fast and efficient point-of-care diagnostics to support prudent prescribing, and only in exceptional circumstances should antibiotics be prescribed without laboratory or point-of-care diagnostics.
7. Face-to-face consultations should remain a gold standard wherever possible. Telemedicine prescribing may be used as well as face-to-face providing proper diagnostic procedures have been followed.
8. Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes must go hand in hand with adequate human and financial resources.
9. Hand hygiene should become a binding performance indicator for evaluating IPC practices in healthcare.
10. Cooperation between public health, veterinary and environmental sectors, rooted in the One Health approach, must be strengthened.

How to make progress on tackling AMR?

Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance in Medical Practice

27 April 2023 | 13:00 – 16:15 CEST | Stockholm | In person and online



Speakers will include:

Swedish Ambassador on AMR
Slovenian Medical Chamber
Health Action International
Public Health Agency of Sweden
European Commission | Strama
Health Action International | ReAct Europe
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority



Many thanks for your attention!

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