

Antimicrobial Resistance

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Background (1)



- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a multifaceted, international public health problem, which poses a direct threat to the safety of the population of South Africa.
- Antibiotics play a vital role in the management of bacterial infections, reducing morbidity and preventing mortality.
- Inappropriate use of antibiotics drives the selection of antibiotic resistant bacteria.



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Background (2)



- AMR or the ability of a microorganism to withstand treatment with an antimicrobial drug, is a significant and multifaceted public health problem and a direct threat to patient safety and the continued use of available antimicrobials.
- Societal and financial costs of treating antimicrobial resistant infections place a significant human and economic burden on society.



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AMR Strategy



- In the process of being developed.
- The purpose of the Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy framework is to provide a framework for managing AMR, to limit further increases in resistant microbial infections, and improve patient outcomes.



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Strategic Framework (1)



- The strategic framework consists of four (4) strategic objectives:
 - **Strategic objective 1: Strengthen, coordinate and institutionalize interdisciplinary efforts** through national and health establishment level governance structures
 - **Strategic objective 2: Optimise surveillance and early detection of antimicrobial resistances** to enable reporting of local, regional, and national resistance patterns to optimise empiric and targeted antibiotic choice.



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Strategic Framework (2)



- **Strategic objective 3: Enhance infection prevention and control** of the spread of resistant microbes to patients in healthcare settings, focusing on improvement in hand hygiene and the identification and isolation of patients with resistant organisms. Community measures include preventing infection through wide-reaching vaccination programmes and improvements in water and sanitation.
- **Strategic objective 4: Promote appropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animal health** through antimicrobial stewardship



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Legislative Framework (1)



- The **Constitution of South Africa (Constitution)** guides the substantive content of all laws and policies through its Bill of Rights. The Constitution provides for health policy and practices that respond to the needs of South Africans. In terms of Section 27 of the Constitution access to health care in itself is a basic human right. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that this right is protected, promoted, and fulfilled within the limits of available resources.
- The **National Health Act (Act 61 of 2003)** provides the framework for a structured uniform health system within South Africa. The Act specifically provides for the establishment of “a system of co-operative governance and management of health services, within national guidelines, norms and standards, in which each province, municipality and health district must address questions of health policy and delivery of quality health care services”.



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Legislative Framework (2)



- The **Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act 101 of 1965)**, as amended, provides the legislative framework to ensure that medicines are safe, efficacious and of good quality. It also provides for control of veterinary medicines in such a way as to ensure that they are produced, distributed and used without compromising human and animal health. Antimicrobials intended for use in animals and registered under Act 101 can only be administered or prescribed by a veterinarian.
- The **Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999)** ensures that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of all levels of governments are managed efficiently and effectively and provides for the responsibilities of persons entrusted with financial management to support, among others, sustainable access to health care and medicines.



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Legislative Framework (3)



- The **National Drug Policy (NDP)** health objectives are to ensure the availability and accessibility of essential drugs to all citizens, to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, to promote the rational use of drugs by prescribers, dispensers and patients through provision of the necessary training, education and information and to promote the concept of individual responsibility for health, preventive care and informed decision making.
- The **Fertilizers, Farm, Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947)**. This act governs the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion and prophylaxis/metaphylaxis, and the purchase of antimicrobials over the counter (OTC) by the lay public (chiefly farmers). The National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has a responsibility to ensure that farmers have access to veterinary drugs for disease control and improved food production and to safeguard man by monitoring residues (including antibiotics) in products of food-producing animals, preventing zoonoses and controlling notifiable diseases.



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Legislative Framework (4)



- The **Health Profession Act (Act 56 of 1974)** provides for control over the education, training and registration for and practicing of health professions registered under this act.
- The **Veterinary And Para-Veterinary Professions Act (Act 19 of 1982)** makes provision for the compounding and or dispensing of any medicine which is prescribed by the veterinarian for use in the treatment of an animal which is under his or her professional care.



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Essential Medicines List



- National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) appointed by Minister of Health.
- STGs and EML for 3 levels of health care:
 - Primary health care
 - Hospital care – Adult; Paediatrics
 - Tertiary and quaternary care
- Primary and hospital care are Standard Treatment Guideline (STG) based and tertiary is a pure formulary system
- Foundation for:
 - the basic health care package of the National Health System
 - formularies with schemes
 - training at medical schools
 - procurement and use of drugs



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Progress report on AMR in SA



- **April 2014:** Stakeholder Consultative meeting for development of the National AMR Strategy Framework document 2014 – 2024
- **May 2014:** Presented at World Health Assembly (WHA) by Minister of Health (MOH)
- **June 2014:** Circulated for comment to attendees of the consultative meeting
- **16 October 2014:** AMR Summit in Gauteng



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AMR Summit – Background



- **November 2014:** WHO will convene a meeting of Member States, MOHs and other senior officials and experts in the field of responsible use of antimicrobials in Norway
 - To agree and commit to national objectives, strategies and effective interventions/actions that will help tackle AMR in their respective countries
 - To contribute to the international AMR agenda and inform the development of the AMR Global Action Plan
- AMR Global Action Plan will be presented at WHA in Geneva in January 2015



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AMR Summit – Purpose



- The purpose of the Summit is to bring together all stakeholders involved in work related to infectious diseases to advise on the organisational implications of the **implementation** of the Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework for South Africa



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AMR Summit – Objectives



- Obtain high-level commitment from key stakeholders to invest relevant resources and implement sound strategies and interventions to manage antimicrobial resistance, to limit further increases in resistant microbial infections, and improve patient outcomes.
- Create awareness of intersectoral collaboration activities on antimicrobial resistance.
- Identify strategies to achieve responsible use of antimicrobials and to monitor trends.



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AMR Summit – Commitment



- Key stakeholders will be invited to commit in principle to investing relevant resources and implementing sound strategies and interventions to manage antimicrobial resistance in South Africa, to preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials for future generations.



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THANK YOU



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