WHO issues new guidelines for the treatment of three sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in response to the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.

It is estimated that, each year, 131 m people are infected with chlamydia, 78m with gonorrhoea, and 5.6m with syphilis. Resistance of these STIs to antibiotics has increased rapidly in recent years and has reduced treatment options. Gonorrhoea has developed the strongest resistance to antibiotics. Strains of multiderug-resistant gonorrhoea that do not respond to any available antibiotics have already been detected, leading to an intensified search for new treatments. The new recommendations are based on the latest available evidence on the most effective treatments for these three STIs. To read more, click here.

New look WHO AMR website

We are very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website. Visit us at our new web address http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/en/. The new site is divided into eight main sections: About AMR; Global action plan on AMR; Implementation of the GAP; News and Media; Resources and publications; Resistance in disease and areas; AMR in the regions; and Events. The site also contains integrated social media buttons for Twitter to foster improved communication. We hope you find the new website fresh, modern and accessible in a logical way.

Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership activities

The Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, an initiative of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and WHO (launched May 2016), has begun exploratory work on potential R&D projects.

i) New gonorrhoea drugs: Available data indicate increasing gonococcal resistance to, and treatment failures with, last-line oral cephalosporins currently used for the treatment of gonorrhoea. WHO has just issued new guidelines for the treatment of gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis in light of the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. In June, the Partnership brought together experts on gonorrhoea to understand the needs and highlight barriers to the development of new and effective treatments for gonorrhoea. Meeting experts agreed on a set of go/no-go criteria to guide drug development, with Target Product Profiles (TPPs) for both short and longer term needs for new gonorrhoea treatments. Further exploratory work will be conducted as a follow up to the meeting.

ii) Neonatal sepsis: Neonatal (0-27 days) mortality remains unacceptably high with an estimated 2.9m newborn deaths every year, of which about 15%-25% are attributed to sepsis. One model suggests that neonatal sepsis deaths due to resistant organisms in China, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo alone total 215,000. In August, the Partnership hosted an expert meeting to review the proposal from a team led by Professor Mike Sharland of St George's Hospital in the UK, which aims to develop a new, more effective, regimen not reliant upon carbapenems. The hope is that old antibiotics can be identified, and formulated to fill this niche.
**Birth in a time of antibiotic-resistant bacteria**

*Joint WHO/UNICEF commentary* by Dr Anthony Costello, WHO Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health, and Dr Stefan S. Peterson, Chief of Health, UNICEF.

"Saving the lives of mothers and infants will require us to address the problem of access as well as excess. Simply put, those who need lifesaving antibiotics must get them, and those who do not must not."

The most important step is to stop the spread of infection, so that antibiotics don’t have to be used in the first place. All health care facilities, at a minimum, must have clean running water and sanitation services, and health care professionals must follow good hygienic practices such as hand washing. Facilities should also implement policies to discharge mothers and newborns sooner rather than later, in order to reduce the potential for exposure to infectious microbes, and to educate mothers on the importance of breastfeeding in strengthening newborns’ immune systems. Finally, when antibiotics are used, health care providers should confirm that they are truly needed and prescribe responsible doses. Click here to read this joint opinion piece. Photo credit: EPA/Sabangan.

**Launch of China’s NAP 2016-2020**

WHO congratulates the National Health and Family Planning Commission on the launch of China’s National Action Plan to Contain Antimicrobial Resistance. A recent study estimated that by 2050, antibiotic resistance could result in 1 million premature deaths annually in China, and cost the country a cumulative US$20 trillion.

“We congratulate the fourteen departments who have collaborated to publish this joint plan. While antimicrobial resistance is a major health threat, the health sector cannot tackle it alone: a multi-sectoral approach across both the human health and animal health sectors is critical. This collaboration is a global best practice that can be shared with other countries,” said Dr Bernhard Schwartländer, WHO Representative in China. China’s NAP will shortly be available in WHO’s library of national action plans. For more information, contact wul@who.int

Hand Hygiene Day 2015, China. Photo credit: WHO China

**AMR Global R&D Priority Pathogens project**

The WHO Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products is currently reviewing proposals for a project to develop a list of global R&D priorities with respect to resistant pathogens. The project will contribute to the development of a Global R&D Priority Pathogens List which, in turn, will feed in to global R&D priorities for effective antibiotic treatments.

**Editor’s pick: McDonalds urged to adopt worldwide ban on meat and milk from animals raised with antibiotics**

The UK-based charity, ShareAction, has launched an online campaign enabling people to email McDonald’s CEO Steve Easterbrook asking him to convince McDonald’s restaurants around the world to stop serving meat and milk from animals raised with routine use of medically important antibiotics. This follows McDonald’s recent announcement that it had completed its shift (in the US) to only using chickens raised without antibiotics important to human medicine. More information here.

Wendy’s Co, the fifth-largest U.S. fast-food chain, has undertaken to quit using chickens raised with antibiotics important to human health by 2017. Meanwhile, Yum Brands Inc investors have filed a shareholder proposal requesting that it quickly phase out harmful antibiotic use in its meat supply, taking aim at the practices of the company’s KFC fried chicken chain.

US healthy meat producer Vermont Smoke & Cure has completed the elimination of antibiotics from its protein supply chain.
WHO Global report on early warning indicators for HIV drug resistance

This report reaffirms the need for a new Global Action Plan for HIV Drug Resistance (HIVDR), which WHO is currently developing in consultation with partners and other stakeholders. Up to 2010, HIVDR levels remained moderate at 7% in developing countries. However, recently, some countries have reported levels at or above 10% amongst those starting HIV treatment, and up to 40% among people re-starting treatment. For more information, click [here](#).

Launch of $350m partnership to develop new antibiotics, diagnostics and vaccines

As part of its sweeping effort to tackle the problem of antibiotic-resistant superbugs, the U.S Dept of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced a $350 million trans-Atlantic public-private partnership to spur the preclinical development of new antibiotics and antimicrobial rapid diagnostics and vaccines. The partnership is called Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator, or CARB-X. Click [here](#) for more information.

Students tackling AMR

Students from the International Veterinary Students’ Association, the International Federation of Medical Students’ Association and the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation have for the last few years been working together to tackle AMR, developing toolkits and campaign materials. They have also collaborated through the World Health Students’ Alliance to effect change at a global policy level. More information [here](#).

United Nations General Assembly High-Level AMR Meeting: calendar of key side events

Global leaders will meet at the United Nations General Assembly in New York September 20-26 and hold a High Level Meeting on AMR on September 21. The following is a list of key AMR-related side events (some invitation-only) taking place prior to and during the week:

14 September, 18:00-19:30 at New York Academy of Sciences: “The end of antibiotics”, hosted by Intelligence Squared with the Wellcome Trust and WHO. Click [here](#).

18 September, 14:30-15:30 (tbc) at 92Y: +SocialGood Summit mini-panel on AMR. Click [here](#).


20 September, 16:00-18:30 at the Yale Club: Forum on sustainable access to effective antimicrobials, organized by GARP and CDDEP. Click [here](#).

21 September, 07:45-09:30, at UNHQ, Delegates Dining Room: “Working together across the public and private sectors to address antimicrobial resistance”, a breakfast event hosted by UNAIDS, BD and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Health in Agenda 2030 and for Malaria.

21 September, 13:30-14:30, at UNHQ: “Prevention: antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention and control measures.” Moderated dialogue hosted by the USA.

Resources

- Antimicrobial resistance: aide-memoire. Click [here](#).
- Antimicrobial resistance for policy makers. Click [here](#).
- Antimicrobial resistance: A manual for developing national action plans and supporting documents and tools. Click [here](#).
- Library of national action plans. Click [here](#).
- Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). For information on criteria and procedures for enrolment in GLASS and for the GLASS manual, click [here](#).
- For information on infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance, click [here](#).
Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, please contact the Secretariat at whoamrsecretariat@who.int. Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger. **Newsletter editor:** Breeda Hickey.

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