



Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)

Task Force on AMR Action Plan on Reducing Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

It is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.

APPA action plan on stewardship of antimicrobial prescription (AMP) and prevention of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will be based on WHO Global action plan, published in 2015 (1) and Draft road map on Global framework to combat antimicrobial resistance, published in 2017(2).

Proposed way forward

1. Setting up of a team of experts on stewardship to combat antimicrobial prescription and antimicrobial resistance for children in APPA region within the APPA framework, which will act as scientific and technical advisory committee on AMP/AMR
2. Working with and in close collaboration with global partners on AMP/AMR
3. To work with member societies of APPA to prioritize the intervention within the proposed action plan

The APPA action plan will have following components:

1. **Action plan for policy and advocacy**
2. **Action plan for increasing awareness and education of pediatricians and the community**
 - a) Action plan for bringing behavioral change in prescribing antibiotics for the pediatricians for optimizing antibiotic use
 1. Workshops on Rational Antimicrobial Practice (RAP) – We have a case based interactive module that was prepared by a committee in the IAP. A core team within APPA can be set up to review the same and the Power Point can be shared with the Pediatric associations of all APPA member countries. The association to educate their members by conducting RAP workshops.

2. There is a modified version of the same for family practitioners. It can also be propagated to all the member countries after review by the core committee
- b) Action plan for activities during “WHO Antimicrobial Resistance Week”
 1. All the executive members should use the WHO theme line “Fight AMR, it’s in your hands” for this year, as a line below their signature in all the communication
 2. Public awareness campaign during the week –
 - A. Each association to write to the members to observe the week. The week to be same as the WHO antimicrobial awareness week .This year it is November 13 to 19
 - B. Circulate posters of the jpg available on net to all the members to display it in the clinic or hospital waiting areas
 - C. Involve local media, print and TV or radio channels to create awareness by talks, interviews for experts and policy makers.
 - D. Put up banners of the theme of the week at prominent public places
 - E. Display small posters at the chemist shops (pharmacies) entrance wall
- c) Action plan for running and managing social media strategy development for public health awareness campaign at country level.
- d) For this region, education for changing self-medication behavior for public is very important.

3. Hold an APPA conference starting from 2018 exclusively on antimicrobials “Antimicrobiocon” during the week. This can be held in rotation in different countries every year

4. Action plan for establishing and strengthening surveillance system for antimicrobial resistance

1. GARPEC – involve more member countries (GARPEC stopped this year, we should establish our network by our own - APARPEC).
2. Each country has to collect and collate data on the AMP/AMR surveillance
3. Action plan for infection prevention and control at health care facility level

- A. Create awareness amongst the members about utility of Infection prevention and control in curtailing AMR
- B. Develop practical guidelines for AMP that are simple to understand and easy to implement at individual clinics, small nursing homes and level II facilities.
- C. A subcommittee in each association needs to look into developing these guidelines of AMP and impart on line training to the members. Award and reward strategy may be used to ensure implementation of the guidelines
- D. Ensure that each CME (?) or conference held has a session on Infection control and AMP/AMR

5. Action plan for role of APPA for developing national action plans for antimicrobial resistance.

- A. Help member countries in developing national action plans in accordance with WHO guidelines (3). This could also help in improvising and guide existing national action plan like India(4) and China (4'), and action plan specially for Chinese children which will be announced during WSPID 2017.
- B. Prioritizing and step-wise approach to design appropriate activities within the national context while setting realistic, achievable, effective plans.
- C. Spotlight multisectoral systems approach (multisectoral coordination engagement) to involve all relevant sectors in addition to human health, such as animal health, plant production and environmental health when developing plans to contain AMR.
- D. Encourage participating countries to adjust their process regarding development and implementation of National Action Plans to adapt to local context and constraints. Following will be major areas of concern.
 - Establish a governance mechanism.
 - Establish pediatric network for AMP/AMR to get basic data in the region and countries, even local hospital level
 - Conduct thorough situational analyses
 - Planning
 - Initiate implementation
 - Conduct periodic reviews, and incorporate lessons learnt

6. Action plan on understanding and implementing “one health” concept in reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistance in APPA region.

‘One health’ is defined as “the collaborative multi-disciplinary team-working locally, nationally, and globally — to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment”(5,6).

Collaborative efforts from experts of multiple disciplines working together in a trans-disciplinary way will be involved to implementing “one health” concept to mitigate antimicrobial resistance.

The proposed action plan will help to recognizes and addresses both the variable resources nations have to combat antimicrobial resistance and the economic factors that discourage the development of replacement products by the pharmaceutical industry.

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3. WHO | Antimicrobial Resistance A MANUAL FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS. 2016 [cited 2017 Nov 9]; Available from: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204470/1/9789241549530_eng.pdf
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