

eP542

ePoster Viewing

Antibiotic stewardship programmes

## DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING AND STEWARDSHIP COMPETENCES

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The emergence in recent years of highly antimicrobial resistant (AMR) organisms and the lack of effective alternative therapies is a serious threat to patient safety and a major public health issue. It is a world-wide problem and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is essential as it aims to contain and control AMR.

The three major goals for AMS<sup>1</sup> are:

- optimisation of therapy for individual patients
- prevention of overuse, misuse and abuse
- to minimise AMR development at patient and community levels

The ultimate goal of any AMS programme is to improve patient safety and outcomes and should aim to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobials, reduce AMR and decrease the spread of infections caused by multidrug resistant organisms. Educating the public and clinicians in the prudent use of antimicrobials as part of an antimicrobial stewardship programme is of paramount importance to preserve these crucial treatments and to help control AMR. Improving surveillance, and infection prevention and control are other key strategies.<sup>2,3</sup>

Using current available evidence, regulatory documents and national antimicrobial stewardship guidance for primary and secondary care, five dimensions for antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competences have been developed in England; through an independent multi-professional group led by the Department of Health's (England) Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated infection and Public Health England (table 1).<sup>4</sup>

They are designed to complement the United Kingdom's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence National Prescribing Centre's (NPC) Generic competency framework for all prescribers which are relevant to any independent prescriber, doctor, dentist or non-medical practitioner.<sup>5</sup>

### The Competency Framework:

Each of the five dimensions include statements that describe the activity and outcomes which prescribers should be able to demonstrate:

- 1) Infection prevention and control** – understand the principles and demonstrate competence in preventing and controlling infections.(5 statements)
- 2) Antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobials** – modes of action and spectrum of activities of antimicrobials and the mechanisms of resistance. (6 statements)
- 3) Prescribing antimicrobials** – key elements in prescribing appropriate antimicrobial agents for prophylaxis and treatment (8 statements)
- 4) Antimicrobial stewardship** – demonstrating an understanding and including antimicrobial stewardship in day to day practice. (8 statements)
- 5) Monitoring and learning** – demonstrate continuing professional development in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship. (4 statements)

They will be described in detail. We believe these are the first antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competences to be developed world-wide and their implementation will be an important contribution to the delivery of the UK 5 year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.<sup>6</sup>

References

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3. Wyllie D, et al 2011. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/03/cmo-vol2/>
4. Department of Health 2013 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/253094/ARHAIprescrcompetencies\\_\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/253094/ARHAIprescrcompetencies__2_.pdf)
5. National Prescribing Centre. 2012. [http://www.npc.nhs.uk/improving\\_safety/improving\\_quality/](http://www.npc.nhs.uk/improving_safety/improving_quality/)
6. Department of Health. 2013 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-antimicrobial-resistance-strategy-2013-to-2018>

Table 1

Multi-professional body/organisations led by ARHAI and PHE involved in the development and consensus of statements:

- Department of Health
- Department of Health's Expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI)
- Health Protection Agency (now Public Health England)
- Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG)
- The British Society for Antimicrobial Therapy (BSAC)
- Wales Emeritus Professor (Cardiff)
- Public Health Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Infection Prevention Society (IPS)
- Royal College of Physicians (RCP)
- Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP)
- Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
- Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
- Royal College of Surgeons (RCS)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)
- Intensive Care Society (ICS)
- Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists (SCP)
- British Infection Association (BIA)
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP)
- National Prescribing Centre (NPC) (In April 2011 the NPC integrated into the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as the Medicines and Prescribing Centre)