



Implementation of the EU rules and Guidelines

Activity Group 2

Discussion Topic:

EU Guidelines promoting the prudent use of antimicrobials both in humans and in animals present and suggest measures, good practices, systems and processes for EU countries to consider when developing and implementing their national strategies.

Antimicrobial resistance is a priority for the Commission. EU actions are focused, among other actions, on the practical implementation of the guidelines in all Member States and the dissemination of good practices, enhancing cross sectorial work, improving infection prevention and consolidating surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial consumption.

Objectives of the working group activity:

To disseminate, promote and exchange information on good practices, within the same sector among EU Member States, and between the veterinary and the public health sector.

Background

Presentation of the EU guidelines and case studies / examples included in them.

Expected outcomes of working group:

**Identify good practices in each sector (H&V),
and those that may be applied in the other sector.**

Group assignment:

PART A) Time: 1h30

The participants are divided in groups per sector (Public Health and Veterinary Medicine participants will not be mixed).

The participants of each sector will be provided with a number of possible questions, examples:

- **Food safety / Veterinary sectors groups**

Practical approach on how the MS have implemented the guidelines, from the veterinary sector:

Special considerations before using critically important antimicrobials:

BELGIUM

In Belgium, the antimicrobials are classified into first, second and third choice based on scientific literature, taking into account antimicrobial susceptibility, pharmacokinetics and –dynamics, efficacy and clinical signs



of the animals. Within the groups of first, second and third choice, a colour code is given to each antimicrobial (yellow, orange or red):

- **Yellow substances** are the ones of lowest importance to human medicine and are usually first and second choice substances for treatment;
- **Orange substances** should only be used after additional laboratory testing (bacteriology, PCR, serology, etc.), and include macrolides, polymyxins and aminoglycosides, etc.;
- **Red substances** are of highest importance to human medicine. They are third choice for treatment, and include fluoroquinolones and 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins. In principle, they should not be used for group or systematic treatments of farm animals, but if needed they can only be used after additional laboratory testing and antibacterial susceptibility testing have shown that yellow and orange substances will not be effective.

DENMARK

- Denmark has enforced restrictions on fluoroquinolones since 2002. The restrictions require the veterinarian, **before prescribing them, to carry out microbiological examination and susceptibility testing to ensure that no other type of antimicrobials would be effective** (Order (DK) 119/2002 and Order (DK) 134/2003).
- In July 2010 a voluntary ban on the use of cephalosporins was carried out by the pig industry; the dairy cattle industry applied a similar voluntary ban in July 2014.

Responsibilities: prescriber

SPAIN

- All antimicrobial medicinal products are available only under prescription by a veterinarian. In addition, Spain already has a national legislation restricting veterinarians' right to sell antimicrobials so that they do not benefit economically from prescribing antimicrobials.

FRANCE

- The new law No 2014-1170 prohibits any discount or rebates on veterinary antimicrobials sold to veterinarians. Antimicrobials should be prescribed in line with official good practices.
- All antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products are available only through prescription by a veterinarian, who in turn is permitted to prescribe only to animals in his care. Veterinarians involved in animal production are also obliged to follow regular trainings in which antimicrobial resistance is a specific item covered.

Group Assignment – Food safety / Veterinary sector groups – 40 minutes:

- 1 *Which measures have been taken at national level in your country to implement the guidelines of prudent use of antimicrobials in animals?*
- 2 *Are these national strategies to combat AMR developing and implementing in the frame of a National Plan?*
- 3 *Do you like to share any other specific measures implemented in your country to promote the prudent use?*



- **Public Health group**

Practical approach on how the MMSS have implemented the guidelines, from the human medicine sector:

LITHUANIA

- The decision to establish regional Antimicrobial Resistance management groups was taken in Lithuania by the Ministry of Health in 2015. The leading role to create and support the group activities is given to a regional public health centre where regional epidemiologists are located. There are ten regions in Lithuania and groups are being established in all the regions.
- After a successful pilot, it was decided to promote such groups in all regions. Coordinated national institutions are helpful to initiate twinning and collaboration. Specific problems were discussed during seminars. Training sessions were organised to disseminate the knowledge in all regions.

GREECE

- Designed an intervention programme to reduce resistance in an endemic situation.
- CP-KP (Carbapenemase-Producing *Klebsiella pneumonia*), a carbapenem-resistant microbe, has been determined as an important pathogen in most tertiary care hospitals in Greece. These organisms are sustained in a healthcare facility by continuous influx of already colonised patients as well as by cross-transmission from patient to patient when the infection control practices are inadequate. The aim of the present study was to examine the impact of a bundle of measures on the containment of CP-KP in a haematology unit where the incidence of infections was high.

FRANCE

- Public campaigns on responsible use of antibiotics.
- The first French National Plan on antibiotics, published in 2002, aimed to raise awareness on the prudent use of antibiotics among the general public. Nationwide mass media campaigns were launched. The overall antibiotic consumption fell by 10.7% between 2000 and 2013.
- Antibiotics are not automatic: The National Health Insurance launched several public campaigns:
 - 2002-2006: to break the reflex: common diseases. Slogan used: “Antibiotics are not automatic”;
 - 2007-2009: a focus on a new idea: viral disease. Slogan used: “An antibiotic cannot heal”;
 - 2010: focus on good practices, illustrated by diseases for which unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions are common (tonsillitis, bronchitis). New slogan for public awareness raising: “Antibiotics, if you use them incorrectly, they will be less strong”.
- Tools for physicians:
 - Guidelines on treating infectious, leaflets on respiratory diseases, specific website with all guidelines, but currently hardly used (18% of GPs used them regularly);
 - Streptotests: free of charge for physicians (since 2002), but currently hardly used (18% of GPs used them regularly) • Visits to GPs by local members of the national health insurance, with information on which drugs, and especially antibiotics, the GP has prescribed, compared to the average in the geographic area.



Group Assignment – Human sector groups: - 40 minutes

- 1 Which measures have been taken at national level in your country to implement the guidelines of prudent use of antimicrobials in public health?
- 2 Are these national strategies to combat AMR developing and implementing in the frame of a National Plan?
- 3 Do you like to share any other specific measures implemented in your country to promote the prudent use?

- Presentation of conclusions from each group – 5 to 10 minutes / group – total of 30 minutes
- Summary of conclusions – Tutors 2 and 3 – 5 minutes

PART B) Time: 1h

The participants are divided in groups per sector (Human Health and Veterinary Medicine participants will not be mixed).

Group assignment:

Based on outcomes from Part A of the working group session:

Group Assignment – Veterinary sector groups – 30 minutes:

1. Can the outcomes from previous Public Health sector working groups be applicable to the Veterinary sector? Why?

Group Assignment – Public Health sector groups: - 30 minutes

1. Can the outcomes from previous Veterinary sector working groups be applicable to the Public Health sector? Why?
- Presentation of conclusions from each group – 5 to 10 minutes / group – total of 30 minutes
 - Summary of conclusions – Tutors 2 and 3 – 5 minutes

Documents given before the exercise:

- Presentation of the EU guidelines for prudent use of antimicrobials in Public Health
- Presentation of the EU guideline for prudent use of antimicrobials in Veterinary medicine