

Summary Table of Actions

Key Area 1 - Strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research			
Objective 1 - Enhance the existing AMR surveillance system under One Health for Hong Kong			
Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
1.1	Continue the current structure for One Health surveillance on AMR	1.1.1 The Working Group on AMR continue to deliberate on collection and dissemination of AMR / antimicrobial use data and provide recommendations to EC for consideration	DH AFCD FEHD
1.2	Continue to strengthen AMR surveillance in healthcare settings	1.2.1 Continue AMR surveillance based on WHO's GLASS reporting criteria, and update the surveillance activities according to latest development	DH HA
		1.2.2 Continue surveillance at laboratory level for in- and out-patient service providers	DH HA
1.3	Continue AMR surveillance programme on animals	1.3.1 Continue surveillance on AMR in food animal production farms	AFCD
		1.3.2 Review AMR surveillance in local food animal production farms, with enhancement when appropriate	AFCD
		1.3.3 Carry out supplementary studies, where necessary, related to AMR in local food animal production farms	AFCD
1.4	Continue AMR surveillance programme on food	1.4.1 Continue AMR surveillance in food	FEHD DH

Key Area 1 - Strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research			
Objective 2 - Maintain laboratory capacity to support surveillance activities in both human and animal sectors			
Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
2.1	Maintain laboratory support in AMR surveillance	2.1.1 PHLSB under DH will continue to serve as the local reference laboratory to advise and support local medical laboratories in AMR surveillance	DH
2.2	Standardise laboratory antimicrobial susceptibility testing method for AMR surveillance	2.2.1 Continue adoption of latest international standards and guidelines for AST by DH and HA laboratories	DH HA
		2.2.2 Explore the registration of medical laboratories in Hong Kong to enhance quality assurance of laboratory performance, including those on antimicrobial susceptibility	HHB
2.3	Continue quality assurance programme and promote introduction in medical laboratories	2.3.1 Continue on-going quality assessment programme for continuous improvement of standards of laboratories in Hong Kong	DH
Objective 3 - Monitor antimicrobial use in humans and animals			
3.1	Continue antimicrobial use surveillance	3.1.1 The CHP website will continue to serve as the centralised platform dissemination of antimicrobial use data from different sectors	DH AFCD FEHD

		3.1.2 Continue the collection of supply data on antibiotics from different sectors using standardised reporting formats	DH AFCD
3.2	Monitor antimicrobial use in humans	3.2.1 Continue the collection of antibiotic dispensing data from HA and monitor antibiotic use in public hospitals and clinics	DH HA
		3.2.2 Refer to Strategic intervention 4.4 on collection of prescription and dispensing data from private human sector	DH
3.3	Monitor antimicrobial use in animals	3.3.1 Continue monitoring antimicrobial use in local food animal production farms	AFCD
		3.3.2 Review monitoring on antimicrobial use in local food animal production farms, with enhancement when appropriate	AFCD
		3.3.3 Carry out supplementary studies, where necessary, related to antimicrobial use in local food animal production farms	AFCD

Key Area 2 - Optimise use of antimicrobials in humans and animals			
Objective 4 - Strengthen regulation on over-the-counter purchase of prescription-only antimicrobials			
Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
4.1	Enhance inspection against authorised sellers of poisons	4.1.1 Initiate special inspection against authorised sellers based on risk assessment (e.g. purchaser of large volume of antimicrobials, past irregularities, intelligence)	DH
4.2	Continue to enhance test purchase of antimicrobials against authorised sellers of poisons	4.2.1 Enhance test purchase and initiate prosecutions as necessary	DH
4.3	Continue engagement with licensed drug retailers	4.3.1 Refer to Strategic Intervention 14.1 on ways to strengthen health information provision on antimicrobial use	DH
4.4	Review and consider amending relevant ordinances	4.4.1 Review and consider amending relevant Ordinance(s) to mandate recording of antimicrobial prescription and dispensing data systematically through electronic means and ensure proper record keeping of antimicrobials along the supply chain, from wholesale to supply to end users	DH

Objective 5 - Implement and enhance training in prescribing antimicrobials through ASP in human health sector

5.1	Ensure adequate resources for implementation and evaluation of ASP in healthcare settings	5.1.1 Commit resources for sustaining ASP in different healthcare settings	DH HA
5.2	Promote antibiotic prescription according to evidence-based guidelines for doctors	5.2.1 Continue to review and update the IMPACT guideline for in-patient antibiotic stewardship and promulgate its use	DH HA
		5.2.2 Continue to strengthen ASP in public hospitals based on objective assessment criteria, including the enhancement of IT systems	DH HA
		5.2.3 Continue to strengthen ASP in private hospitals based on evaluation against objective assessment criteria	DH Private Hospitals
		5.2.4 Continue to review, update and promulgate evidence-based guidelines in primary care settings, to ensure consistency with IMPACT	DH HA Professional Bodies

Objective 6 - Monitor compliance with antimicrobial prescription guidelines of human health practitioners			
6.1	Monitor compliance with antimicrobial prescription guidelines of human health practitioners	6.1.1 Evaluation and audit of ASP and establish feedback loop to reflect performance and implement target measures to address any identified inappropriate use of antibiotics	DH HA
		6.1.2 Conduct regular surveys to monitor knowledge, understanding and prescription behaviour of human health practitioner and to determine effectiveness of interventions	DH
		6.1.3 Ensure monitoring of antibiotic use is comprehensive to provide a complete unbiased picture, to reveal areas requiring attention	HA

Key Area 2 - Optimise use of antimicrobials in humans and animals

Objective 7 - Ensure proper use of antimicrobials in animals

Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
7.1	Strengthen support to food animal production and veterinary sectors	7.1.1 Continue to facilitate and support development of projects for the provision of veterinary services to food animal production farms by non-government veterinary sector, including formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans	AFCD
		7.1.2 Facilitate and support farmers in sourcing vaccines and veterinary medications for disease prevention and management by both government and non-government veterinary sectors	AFCD
		7.1.3 Continue to support non-government veterinarians to build up their capacity for providing veterinary services to local food animal production farms	AFCD

7.2	Promote proper antimicrobial use according to evidence and local epidemiology	7.2.1 Review and update guidelines and code of practice on the proper use of antimicrobials and use of critically important antimicrobials in animal disease management in accordance with prevailing international guidelines	AFCD
		7.2.2 Organise education and publicity programmes for food animal farmers and veterinarians on the proper use of antimicrobials	AFCD
7.3	Enhance regulation of antimicrobial use in food animals	7.3.1 Implement 'veterinary prescription-only medication supply' policy and tightly regulate the use of critically important antimicrobials in animal husbandry	AFCD
		7.3.2 Review relevant legislation on exemption of using antimicrobials in animal feeds	AFCD DH

Key Area 3 - Reduce incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and preventive measures

Objective 8 - Strengthen infection prevention and control measures in healthcare settings

Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
8.1	Secure resources for implementing infection control programmes in hospitals	8.1.1 Allocate sufficient resources for implementation of the infection control programmes	DH HA
8.2	Enhance infection control infrastructure in hospitals	8.2.1 Ensure ward designs are according to international guidelines and recommendations in planning new hospitals	DH HA
8.3	Promote hand hygiene in healthcare settings	8.3.1 Strengthen hand hygiene programmes to improve compliance by healthcare workers	DH HA
		8.3.2 Ensure hand hygiene audits accurately reflect the actual practice	DH HA
8.4	Address transmission of MDRO between hospitals and residential care homes	8.4.1 Implement and evaluate universal decolonisation programme for residents of residential care homes	DH
		8.4.2 Implement admission screening and decolonisation therapy in public hospitals for residents of residential care homes	HA

		8.4.3 Monitor the MDRO carriage rate in residential care home residents admitted to public hospitals	DH
		8.4.4 Identify areas of improvement in the implementation of infection prevention and control measures in residential care homes	DH
Objective 9 - Strengthen infection control training for healthcare workers			
9.1	Strengthen infection control training among healthcare workers	9.1.1 Continue to provide infection control training with refresher information to new intakes of healthcare workers	DH HA
		9.1.2 Continue patient engagement programme on reminding healthcare workers to perform hand hygiene	DH HA
		9.1.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the training and intervention by regular KAP surveys	DH HA

Key Area 3 - Reduce incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and preventive measures

Objective 10 - Develop and strengthen infection prevention and control programmes in veterinary settings and along food supply chain

Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
10.1	Develop infection prevention and control policies and strategies	10.1.1 Facilitate and support formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plan for the purpose of disease prevention, management of disease spread and minimise the use of antibiotics	AFCD
		10.1.2 Consider relocation and consolidation of livestock farms if necessary	AFCD
10.2	Identify risk and potential control points for AMR containment along food supply chains	10.2.1 Continue to assess the significance of food animal production in contributing to AMR and formulate suitable measures to address the AMR issues associated with food animal production through surveillance programmes	AFCD
		10.2.2 Review overseas studies to identify potential control points to contain AMR	AFCD FEHD

10.3	Strengthen food safety and hygiene training for farm workers	10.3.1 Provide regular education seminars on biosecurity, disease control and prevention and farm management to farmers and their workers	AFCD
		10.3.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of training and intervention by regular KAP surveys	FEHD
Objective 11 – Develop and strengthen surveillance and interventions to combat AMR in food			
11.1	Continue AMR surveillance in food	11.1.1 Continue AMR surveillance in food	FEHD
11.2	Empower the food businesses on prevention of AMR during food process	11.2.1 Advocate for food businesses to implement Good Hygiene Practices to address foodborne AMR and facilitate consumers to make informed food choices	FEHD
		11.2.2 Explore the feasibility of including such advice in the licensing conditions of certain licensed food businesses that sell certain high-risk foods, e.g. oysters intended for raw consumption, through deliberations with internal and external stakeholders	FEHD

11.3	Strengthen food safety and hygiene training	11.3.1 Provide regular education seminars on food hygiene and safety to food businesses	FEHD
		11.3.2 Introduce the concept of foodborne AMR in training courses for Hygiene Managers, Hygiene Supervisors and food handler alike	FEHD
		11.3.3 Objectively measure the effectiveness of the training and interventions	FEHD
Objective 12 - Enhance vaccination uptake			
12.1	Promote vaccinations contributing to prevention of antimicrobial resistant infections	12.1.1 Promote uptake of seasonal influenza, pneumococcal and COVID-19 vaccines	DH HA

Key Area 4 - Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education and training
Objective 13 - Raise awareness of AMR among general public, students and target population

Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
13.1	Develop and implement targeted evidence-based health promotion programme for specific audience including students and personnel working in healthcare, animal health, food animal production and food hygiene settings	13.1.1 Monitor KAP towards AMR and antimicrobial use among general public and target population by regular survey	DH AFCD FEHD
		13.1.2 Develop and review key messages to raise public awareness and call for action based on KAP results	DH AFCD FEHD
		13.1.3 Support and participate in annual World Antibiotic Awareness Campaign and Hand Hygiene Day	DH HA AFCD FEHD
		13.1.4 Develop and disseminate information on AMR and related topics through existing health promotion channels, healthcare service providers and platforms commonly used by target populations including patients, food animal farmers, private veterinarians and food business operators	DH AFCD FEHD
		13.1.5 Provide regular education and training to food animal farmers on topics related to antimicrobial use and AMR	AFCD

		13.1.6 Continue to keep in view of international practices and consensus related to antibiotic-free labelling	AFCD
13.2	Include AMR and related topics to students	13.2.1 Continue the inclusion of topics on AMR in high school curriculum	DH
		13.2.2 Continue the development and dissemination of education materials on AMR to primary students	DH
		13.2.3 Implement surveys on the target audience to ascertain effectiveness of the intervention	DH
Objective 14 - Engage patients in adopting infection control measures and proper use of antimicrobials			
14.1	Strengthen health information provision and better engaging patients	14.1.1 Develop and provide health education materials in hospital wards, clinics and pharmacies	DH HA
		14.1.2 Provide, review and update health information on personal hygiene measures on antimicrobial drug prescription bags	DH HA
		14.1.3 Encourage provision of health information on personal hygiene measures on antimicrobial drug prescription bags from private medical practitioners and community pharmacies	DH Professional bodies

		14.1.4 Continue patient education on appropriate use of antimicrobials through easily accessible channels including social media platforms	DH HA
14.2	Provide supportive environment to facilitate hand hygiene practices by patients	14.2.1 Provide accessible hand hygiene facilities and products at various points of care in healthcare settings	DH HA
Objective 15 - Include AMR and related topics in school curricula and continuous training of human health and veterinary professionals			
15.1	Include prescribing competencies and infection control practices as core component of professional education and continuous development	15.1.1 Continue to include AMR and related topics in undergraduate curricula for human health (medical, nursing and pharmacy) and animal health professionals and encourage continuous professional development	DH AFCD Academia
15.2	Strengthen infection control and food safety training for healthcare workers, veterinarians and workers along food supply chain	15.2.1 Refer to Objectives 9, 10 and 11	DH HA AFCD FEHD

Key Area 5 - Promote research on AMR		
Objective 16 - Promote research on innovative technology and medical science		
Strategic Interventions		Lead action parties
16.1	Promote development of novel diagnostics tools to aid diagnosis and treatment of infections and AMR	DH Academia
16.2	Promote development of novel preventive measures on AMR	DH Academia
16.3	Promote development of novel antimicrobials or other alternative agents	DH Academia
Objective 17 - Promote research on behavioural science and psychology		
17.1	Promote research on awareness and education regarding AMR, infection prevention and control, and antibiotic stewardship	DH Academia
17.2	Promote research on promoting behavioural changes regarding the use of antimicrobials in the public	DH Academia
Objective 18 - Promote research on health and economic burden		
18.1	Promote research on estimating local health burden of AMR	DH Academia
Objective 19 - Promote research on the contribution of environment to the burden of AMR		
19.1	Promote research on role of environment in the evolution of AMR	DH EEB Academia
19.2	Promote research on preventive measures on the spread of AMR through the environment	DH EEB Academia

Key Area 6 - Strengthen partnerships and foster engagement of relevant stakeholders

Objective 20 - Strengthen international partnerships and regional collaboration

Strategic Interventions		Activities	Lead action parties
20.1	Enhance contribution to international, regional and country initiatives in implementing the Action Plan on AMR	20.1.1 Participate and contribute to WPRO's actions for AMR	DH HA AFCD FEHD
		20.1.2 Contribute AMR and AMU data to the WHO global platform and provide data compatible with the latest version of the software WHONET	DH HA

Objective 21 - Inform public policy and facilitate stakeholder engagement

21.1	Inform public policy and facilitate stakeholder engagement	21.1.1 Organise information sharing session(s) for different stakeholders and target audience	DH HA AFCD FEHD
		21.1.2 Disseminate information regarding the progress of the Action Plan to stakeholders in the form of objective indicators on trend	DH HA AFCD FEHD