

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (1) in DH/ICB/AMR/6-35/14

29 January 2026

Dear Doctor,

Release of the Updated Antibiotic Guidance Notes in Community Setting

We are delighted to announce that the updated Antibiotic Guidance Notes in Community Setting (Guidance Notes) have been released today. The Guidance Notes serve as evidence-based antibiotic prescription guidance for doctors in managing common infections in the community, which can help alleviate the problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Hong Kong.

According to the surveillance data on antimicrobial supply regularly collected from local licensed wholesale traders by the Department of Health, about half of the antimicrobials were used by private doctors each year in the past decade. In 2023 and 2024, private doctors used 53.9 per cent and 56.1 per cent respectively, of antimicrobials in the “Access” category, which the World Health Organization considers to be at lower risk of developing drug resistance. The corresponding figures for private hospitals were 57.7 per cent and 60.5 per cent. Both figures fall below the 70 per cent target recommended at the 2024 United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR.

Optimizing the use of antimicrobials in humans is one of the main strategic actions to control the emergence of AMR under the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance launched in 2017. The Advisory Group on Antibiotic Guidance Notes in Community Setting, set up by the Centre for Health Protection, has updated the Guidance Notes for seven common infections developed in 2017 and 2018 based on the latest local epidemiology of infectious diseases, evolving resistance patterns of bacteria, overseas guidelines and international best practices. Along with the updated Guidance Notes, new health education poster and pamphlet are also available for use by doctors to educate and empower patients on the safe use of antibiotics during their clinical encounters.



Healthcare providers in the community play a pivotal role in tackling the AMR problem by prescribing antibiotics wisely. We urge all doctors, both in the public and private sectors, to continue to uphold the following antibiotic prescribing practices:

- Prescribe antibiotics only when clinically indicated.
- Select appropriate antibiotics, taking reference from clinical guidelines such as the Guidance Notes mentioned in this letter and the IMPACT.
- Use narrow-spectrum antibiotics at optimal doses and for the shortest effective duration, where appropriate.

To access the updated Guidance Notes and health education resources, please visit the website or scan QR code listed as follows:

Antibiotic Guidance Notes in Community Setting:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/49811.html>



Health education resources:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/104147.html>



Thank you for your continual support in combating AMR and preserving the effectiveness of antimicrobial treatments.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmond MA".

(Dr Edmond MA)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health