感染控制處

衞生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection
保障市民健康
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Infection Control Branch

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Dear Doctor,

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2026

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses serious global and local threats to human health. Overuse and misuse of antimicrobial drugs are the main drivers of AMR. To increase global awareness, the World Health Organization (WHO) organises the World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) every year from 18 to 24 November. The theme for WAAW 2026 is "One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now".

The proper use of antimicrobial drugs (including antibiotics) is one of the main strategic actions to control the emergence of AMR in Hong Kong. To promote appropriate prescription, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), through the collaborative efforts of medical experts from academia and public and private institutions, released two prescription recommendations: the sixth edition of the Interhospital Multi-disciplinary Programme on Antimicrobial ChemoTherapy (IMPACT) Guidelines, issued in last June, and the updated version of Antibiotic Guidance Notes in Community Setting (Guidance Notes), issued this January, to serve as references for doctors when prescribing antimicrobial drugs to patients.

With concerted effort, the prescription behaviour of doctors has changed gradually over the past years. The latest surveillance data of overall supply of antimicrobials in Hong Kong show that the proportion of the WHO "Watch" category (which is considered to be at a higher potential for developing drug resistance) decreased from 40.3% in 2016 to 32.2% in 2025.

Both hospital-based and community healthcare providers play a pivotal role in tackling the AMR problem by prescribing antimicrobial drugs judiciously. In support of the WHO's call to action, apart from launching a publicity campaign for the public, we also urge all doctors, both in the public and private sectors, to continue to uphold the following antibiotic prescribing practices:

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- Prescribe antibiotics only when clinically indicated.
- Select appropriate antibiotics in alignment with established clinical guidelines.
- Use narrow-spectrum antibiotics at optimal doses and for the shortest effective duration, where appropriate.

In addition, doctors are welcome to promulgate relevant health education materials (poster and pamphlets) in their clinics, and make use of them to educate and empower patients on the safe use of antibiotics during their clinical encounters.

To access the latest information and future updates, 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

IMPACT Guidelines (Sixth Edition):
https://impact.chp.gov.hk/

Health education resources:
https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/104147.html

Should printed copies of health education materials be needed, kindly submit a request on the CHP website (https://www2.chp.gov.hk/eform/Notice.aspx?lang=en).

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

Yours faithfully,

HC

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