

本署檔號    Our Ref. :    (1) in DH/ICB/AMR/6-35/12

19 June 2025

Dear Doctor,

**Release of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Interhospital Multi-disciplinary Programme on Antimicrobial ChemoTherapy (IMPACT) Guidelines**

We are pleased to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Interhospital Multi-disciplinary Programme on Antimicrobial ChemoTherapy (IMPACT) Guidelines has been officially released today. The Guidelines would be a useful reference for managing patients with infectious diseases in the hospitals, and can help alleviate the problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Hong Kong.

The development of the IMPACT Guidelines is a collaborative effort involving the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong University Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, the Chinese University Faculty of Medicine, the Hong Kong Medical Association, and the Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association. Under the leadership of the Editors, namely Dr HO Pak Leung and Dr WU Tak Chiu, local experts of clinical microbiologists and infectious disease physicians reviewed and updated the guidelines based on the latest AMR patterns, as well as overseas and local scientific evidence. This edition includes updated empirical therapy for common infections, recommendations for antimicrobials targeting known pathogens (e.g. macrolide-resistant *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), guidelines for surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis and information on dosing and adverse reactions for selected antimicrobials (e.g. vancomycin, linezolid, daptomycin).

Since its introduction in 1999, the IMPACT Guidelines have served as an important reference for healthcare professionals, helping to reduce unnecessary or inappropriate prescriptions of antimicrobials. At the same time, the guidelines have become the cornerstone of the "Antibiotic Stewardship Programme" implemented in public hospitals and will also facilitate the enhancement of the corresponding measures in private hospitals.



With concerted effort, doctors have been prescribing relatively fewer broad-spectrum antibiotics in recent years. The latest surveillance data show that the proportion of "Watch" antibiotics (antibiotics classified by the World Health Organization as having a higher potential for developing resistance) in the overall supply of antibiotics in Hong Kong has decreased from 40.3% in 2016 to 34.6% in 2024.

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 IMPACT Guidelines.
- Use **narrow-spectrum antibiotics** at **optimal doses** and for the **shortest effective duration, where appropriate.**

To access the IMPACT Guidelines, please visit the website at: <https://impact.chp.gov.hk> or scan the QR code below:



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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chen Hong', written in a cursive style.

(Dr CHEN Hong)  
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health