



**Department of Health**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

# Survey on Use of Antibiotics among Medical Doctors in Hong Kong – Executive Summary

## 本港醫生使用抗生素的問卷調查摘要

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# Executive Summary

## Background and Objectives

Department of Health (DH) has commissioned a company to conduct a survey on use of antibiotics among medical doctors in Hong Kong to help formulate her intervention strategies and evaluate her promotion programme on safe use of antibiotics among primary care doctors. Specific objectives of the survey were as follows:

- (i) To measure the attitude and practice of prescribing antibiotics for URTIs among medical doctors and their awareness of antimicrobial resistance;
- (ii) To understand their use of antibiotics in treating patients with URTIs;
- (iii) To measure the effectiveness of the current community promotion campaign from a doctor's perspective; and
- (iv) To explore suitable interventions for primary care doctors to facilitate them to promote safe use of antibiotics.

## Research Design

All doctors registered with the Medical Council of Hong Kong (n=11,910 as of February 2011) were invited to participate in the survey and convenience sampling was employed. An English questionnaire was designed for the survey. The survey was conducted between 5 December, 2011 and 4 March, 2012.

## Survey Findings

### ***Behaviour and attitudes towards antibiotics prescription***

94% of the doctors had prescribed antibiotics to patients in the past one year and the most commonly prescribed antibiotics were the Penicillin Group. On average, 18% of consultations had led to antibiotics prescription.

In cases of treating patients with URTIs / cold / flu, 5% and 46% of doctors believed antibiotics were 'useful' and 'occasionally useful' respectively. 8% of doctors stated they 'always' / 'very often' / 'often' prescribed antibiotics to patients with URTIs / cold / flu.

For those 'always' / 'very often' / 'often' / 'sometimes' prescribed antibiotics to patients with URTIs, the elderly (82%) were most likely to receive antibiotics, followed by adults (42%) and toddlers (33%). Among them, 2% of doctors 'often' prescribed antibiotics with URTIs / cold / flu where the prescription might not be necessary; another 65% 'occasionally' did so. And, diagnostic uncertainty (66%) was the major reason for prescribing antibiotics to patients with URTIs / cold / flu.

43% of doctors were 'very likely' to prescribe antibiotics to patients with URTIs / cold / flu with the presence of tonsillar exudate, and 39% were 'very likely' to do so when URTIs / cold / flu came with inflamed eardrum.

11% of doctors stated patients' / their carers' expectation had high impact (rating '4' / '5' on a 5-point scale) on their antibiotics prescription for URTIs / cold / flu.

50% of doctors 'always' advised patients on self-management when they had URTIs / cold / flu.

41% of doctors 'always' discussed with patients that antibiotics could not cure viral infections like URTIs / cold / flu.

For those who had prescribed antibiotics in the past one year, 33% of doctors 'always' reminded patients that improper use of antibiotics would increase antimicrobial resistance.

48% of doctors considered that antimicrobial resistance severe in Hong Kong (rated '4' / '5' on a 5-point scale).

### ***Campaign evaluation***

82% of doctors received promotional materials related to safe use of antibiotics from Centre for Health Protection but only 38% of those received the promotional materials used them.

65% and 58% of doctors considered posters and pamphlets useful respectively.

71% of doctors were aware of the TV / radio advertising campaign about "Ask the right questions; Use antibiotics smartly; Safe use of antibiotics" that was launched in March 2011.

16% of doctors reported that their patients had asked more often whether antibiotics were prescribed since March 2011. 15% reported that their patients demanded antibiotics less often.

85% doctors considered that TV / radio announcement of public interests was effective in increasing public awareness on safe use of antibiotics.

To promote safe use of antibiotics to doctors in Hong Kong, 72% of doctors recommended guidelines as an effective way.

# 調查摘要

## 背景和目的

衛生署委託公司就本港醫生使用抗生素的情況進行問卷調查，以協助衛生署就「善用抗生素」擬訂有關的介入策略和評估其推廣計劃。調查的具體目的如下：

- (i) 評估醫生對處方抗生素治療上呼吸道感染的態度和做法，和他們對抗菌素耐藥性的認知；
- (ii) 了解他們在治療上呼吸道感染患者時使用抗生素的情況；
- (iii) 從醫生的觀點評價現時社區推廣活動的成效；和
- (iv) 擬定合適的介入措施，以協助家庭醫生推廣善用抗生素。

## 調查設計

所有在香港醫務委員會註冊的醫生（截至 2011 年 2 月共有 11,910 名）均獲邀請參與是項調查。採用便利抽樣方法，在 2011 年 12 月 5 日至 2012 年 3 月 4 日期間以英文問卷進行調查。

## 調查結果

### 處方抗生素的行為和態度

94% 的醫生在過去一年曾處方抗生素，而最常處方的抗生素是 Penicillin Group。平均 18.3% 的診症需要處方抗生素。

在治療上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者時，分別有 5% 和 46% 的醫生相信抗生素是‘有效’和‘偶然有效’。8% 的醫生表示他們‘每次都會’／‘很多時候會’／‘經常會’處方抗生素給上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者。

在‘每次都會’／‘很多時候會’／‘經常會’／‘有時會’處方抗生素給上呼吸道感染(URTIs) 的患者的醫生中，長者（82%）最常獲處方抗生素，其次是成年人（42%）和幼兒（33%）。當中 2% 的醫生‘經常會’在可能不需要的情況下處方抗生素給上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者；另外 65% 的醫生‘有時會’這樣做。而診斷的不確定性是處方抗生素給上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者的主要原因(66%)。

在上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者，如果出現扁桃腺流膿的徵狀，43% 的醫生‘極有可能’處方抗生素給他們。另外，如果上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感的患者同時有耳膜發炎的徵狀時，39% 的醫生‘極有可能’處方抗生素給他們。

11% 的醫生表示，上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感患者和照顧者的期望，對他們會否處方抗生素有著重大的影響力（5 分中給予 4 或 5 分）。

50% 的醫生表示‘每次都會’建議上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感患者自我照顧的方法。

41% 的醫生表示‘每次都會’告訴求診者，抗生素不能夠治癒如上呼吸道感染(URTIs)／感冒／流感等由病毒引致的感染。

在過去一年曾處方抗生素的醫生，33% ‘每次都會’提醒求診者不適當使用抗生素會增加抗菌素耐藥性。

48%的醫生認為本港抗菌素耐藥性的問題嚴重（5分中給予4或5分）。

### **對推廣活動的評價**

82% 的醫生收到由衛生防護中心製作有關善用抗生素的推廣資料，但只有 38%曾使用它們。

分別有 65% 和 58%的醫生認為海報和單張有用。

71%的醫生留意到在 2011 年 3 月推出的有關“睇醫生問清楚；抗生素咪食錯；善用抗生素”的電視／電台推廣活動。

16%的醫生表示自 2011 年 3 月起，求診者較平常多查詢處方的藥物是否包含了抗生素。  
15%的醫生表示求診者較以往少要求他們處方抗生素。

85%的醫生認為 電視宣傳短片／電台宣傳聲帶能有效增加公眾對善用抗生素的認知。

此外，72% 的醫生認為制訂指引 能有效向本港醫生推廣善用抗生素。