

For information

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Administration's Work Plan regarding Antimicrobial Resistance

Purpose

This paper briefs Panel Members on the work plan and related progress in tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance ("AMR") since the announcement of the 2016 Policy Address.

Background

2. AMR is a burning public health issue globally. The World Health Organization ("WHO") and WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific respectively issued the "Global Action Plan on AMR" and the "Action Agenda for AMR in Western Pacific Region" in 2015. Both the Global Action Plan and the Action Agenda emphasise the importance of adopting the "One-Health" framework in formulating and implementing strategies to combat AMR.

Establishment of the High Level Steering Committee and Expert Committee on AMR

3. In recognition of the major threat posed by AMR to the global public health, the Government announced in the 2016 Policy Address to set up a High Level Steering Committee on AMR ("HLSC") to formulate strategies and action plans. Chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health, the HLSC comprises representatives from relevant Government departments, public and private hospitals, healthcare organisations, academia and relevant professional bodies. The terms of reference and the membership list of the HLSC are in Annex I.

4. The HLSC held its first meeting on 27 June 2016 at which it endorsed the setting up of an Expert Committee on AMR ("Expert Committee") to provide practical and science-based advice to assist in the formulation of territory-wide action plans against AMR under the "One-Health" framework. The terms of reference and the membership list of the Expert Committee are in Annex II.

Approaches to Tackle the Threat of AMR

5. The “One-Health” framework has been regarded by international agencies as a major strategy for combating AMR. Comprehensive strategy that involves inter-departmental efforts and various sectors of the society should be adopted to tackle the rising threat of AMR. To combat AMR, the HLSC and the Expert Committee would follow the “One-Health” framework and the five strategic objectives set out in WHO’s “Global Action Plan on AMR” as follows:

- (i) to improve awareness and understanding of AMR;
- (ii) to strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research;
- (iii) to reduce the incidence of infection;
- (iv) to optimise the use of antimicrobial agents; and
- (v) to develop the economic case for sustainable investment that takes account of the needs of all countries, and increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions.

Progress Update

6. The Expert Committee held its first meeting on 1 November 2016. A number of related items were discussed by Members at the meeting, including the principles and approaches to contain AMR in Hong Kong; overview of AMR in community and healthcare settings in Hong Kong; and overview of AMR surveillance, health promotion, education and evaluation for the combat of AMR. The Expert Committee also exchanged views on the overview of antimicrobial use in livestock farms and food in Hong Kong with regard to the combat of AMR from the perspective of food.

7. Immediately after the above meeting of the Expert Committee, a seminar under the theme of “One Health”, jointly organised by the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, was held on 2 November 2016. With the aim of raising community awareness to the threat that AMR poses on public health, the seminar provided a platform for participants to grasp the latest situation of AMR under the “One-Health” concept, learn from overseas experts on their action plans and measures, and discuss effective ways to control antimicrobial use.

Way Forward

8. The Expert Committee would continue to review the local situation in light of international experience, trends and developments, with a view to advising the HLSC on practical and science-based initiatives. The HLSC would make reference to the Expert Committee's advice and take into consideration international and local situations in making recommendations to the Government on the AMR containment strategies. It is expected that an "Action Plan for Containment of AMR in Hong Kong" would be launched in mid-2017.

Food and Health Bureau
December 2016

High Level Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance

Terms of Reference

1. To provide governance and leadership on antimicrobial resistance (“AMR”);
2. To develop and coordinate comprehensive, multi-sectoral policies to combat AMR;
3. To monitor and oversee the development and implementation of a territory-wide action plan for current and future work related to AMR; and
4. To monitor that actions are within a congruent “One-Health” framework.

Membership (1 June 2016 to 31 May 2018)

Chairman

Secretary for Food and Health

Members

Ms CHAN So Kuen, Sabrina

Professor HUI Shu Cheong, David

Professor LEE Wing Yan, Vivian

Professor YUEN Kwok Yung

Institutional Members

Hospital Authority	Represented by Chief Executive, Dr LEUNG Pak Yin
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine	Represented by President, Professor LAU Chak Sing
Hong Kong Medical Association	Represented by President, Dr CHOI Kin
Hong Kong Dental Association	Represented by President, Dr LEUNG Sai Man, Sigmund
Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association	Represented by Chairman, Dr LEE Kai Yiu, Anthony

Hong Kong Veterinary
Association
Consumer Council

Represented by President,
Dr Tom MANGAN
Represented by Chairman,
Professor WONG Yuk Shan

Ex-officio Members

Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health)

Director of Health

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Controller, Centre for Health Protection

Controller, Centre for Food Safety

Expert Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance

Terms of Reference

The Expert Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance will take into account the relevant work of other expert groups (in the human and veterinary fields) when making its recommendations to the HLSC on:

1. Existing or new strategies and measures to protect public health through:
 - Minimise the incidence of healthcare associated infections;
 - Monitor AMR and reduce its development and spread;
 - Maintain the effectiveness of antimicrobial use and optimise antimicrobial prescribing in the treatment and prevention of microbial infections.
2. Standards/guidelines relating to AMR containment and their suitable adoption in Hong Kong having regard to international practices, trends and developments;
3. Strategies for risk communication to promote AMR and how best to implement relevant risk communication or public education programmes; and any new directions for any research to be commissioned by the HLSC.

Membership (1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017)

Chairman

Professor YUEN Kwok Yung Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong

Vice Chairman

Controller, Centre for Health Protection

Local Members

Dr CHAN Sinn Kay, Olivia Member, Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and Member, Animal Welfare Advisory Group

Professor Richard FIELDING	Professor, Division of Behavioural Sciences, School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong
Dr HO Pak Leung	Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong
Professor LAU Lok Ting, Terence	Director of Innovation and Technology Development and Adjunct Professor, Department of Applied Biology & Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Professor Michael P REICHEL	Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, The City University of Hong Kong
Dr SETO Wing Hong	Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control
Dr TSANG Ho Fai, Thomas	Vice President, Hong Kong College of Community Medicine
Dr TSANG Ngai Chong, Dominic	Chief Infection Control Officer, Hospital Authority
Professor YOU Hoi Sze, Joyce	Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dr YUNG Wai Hung, Raymond	Co-chairman, Working Group of Collaboration between Centre of Health Protection and Private Hospitals on Safe Use of Antibiotics and Infection Control
Mr WONG Chun Kow, Peter	President, World's Poultry Science Association (Hong Kong Branch)

Overseas / Mainland Members

Professor Mary BARTON	Emeritus Professor of Microbiology, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, University of South Australia, Australia
Professor Peter BORRIELLO	Chief Executive Officer, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, United Kingdom
Professor Otto CARS	Professor (Infectious Diseases), Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala University, Sweden
Dr GUO Fusheng	National Technical Advisor and Team Leader, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, China

Dr XU Shixin

Director, Safety Evaluation Office, China
Institute of Veterinary Drugs Control

Ex-officio Members

Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Inspection and Quarantine)

Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Food Surveillance and Control)

Head, Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health

Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)3