



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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KENYA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE- WAAW WEEK 2022

Introduction

The Kenya Medical Association is the umbrella body for doctors in Kenya. It was founded in 1968 with a twin mission: To champion for doctor's welfare and quality healthcare in Kenya. KMA through its public health committee works to advocate for better public health systems and policies to guide implementation of the same.

Effective antimicrobial drugs remain a prerequisite in **Public Health**, protecting patients from potentially fatal diseases, ensuring food security, and protecting the welfare of humans and animals.

However, with misuse, overuse, counterfeiting and poor disposal of antimicrobials, antimicrobial **resistance** has gained traction and is a global public health concern. AMR is currently one of the three greatest global threats to humanity alongside terrorism and climate change. This threatens our ability to sustain an effective global health response to the ubiquitous threat of infectious diseases.

Context:

Addressing the threat of antimicrobial resistance is a key global health priority and the responsibility of the health ecosystem as a whole and all countries.

The ramifications of resistance manifest themselves not just in the impact on human health, but also in veterinary practice and agriculture.

The one health approach to antimicrobial resistance is a comprehensive framework that ensures optimal results in the prevention of AMR. We acknowledge that the Ministry of Health has made great strides through the AMR coordination mechanism in embracing and implementing the One health approach, – encouraging more research, collaborations, stewardship efforts and greater public awareness.

The Kenya Medical Association has contributed to the prevention of antimicrobial resistance through member education, sensitizing our patients, playing an advisory role to the Ministry of Health through participation in various working groups, and actively participating in the World antimicrobial awareness weeks over the years.

Challenges:

Kenya Medical Association observes that there are fundamental weaknesses that present opportunities for enhanced engagement and collaboration between multiple stakeholders to implement the existing action plans:

- The social determinants of infectious diseases are key contributors to AMR.
- The One Health approach to AMR needs more attention and commitment from various stakeholders.

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- Limited awareness on the impact of wanton use of antimicrobials by the public, policy makers and professionals who prescribe, distribute, and utilize these drugs.
- Weak healthcare systems with poor infection prevention and control practices, poor diagnostics, inadequate staff, weak/absent surveillance systems and an overall deficiency in access to and quality of care.
- Poor enforcement of existing regulations and on monitoring of counterfeits, substandard and smuggled drugs.
- Poor animal and crop husbandry practices.

Policy landscape

As we make a commitment to deliberately work with all stakeholders, we continuously reference existing policies and legislation that ensure a foundation on which to layer the overarching principles that guide our efforts.

The **Constitution of Kenya, 2010**, the **International health regulations, 2005**, the **Kenya Vision 2030** alongside other guiding policies within the line ministries of Health and Agriculture, commit to providing affordable, quality healthcare services and preventing the local and international spread of disease, therefore, preserving our National interests of; good health, wellbeing, and economic prosperity.

Our commitment

Cognizant of the health system landscape, the looming AMR crisis, and our dedication to continuous quality improvement of Healthcare in Kenya, We as The Kenya Medical Association:

First state that:

- We strongly discourage Over the Counter antibiotic usage and urge the public to seek a consultation from a licensed medical practitioner and dentist.
- We acknowledge the strength in the one health approach to prevention of antimicrobial resistance and we call all stakeholders to work in cohesion in support of this approach.

We commit to:

1. Participate in increasing public knowledge on antimicrobial resistance and on actionable steps that should be taken at a personal and community level to mitigate the increase.
2. Encouraging/educating association members towards engaging in antimicrobial stewardship approaches focused on best practices in infection prevention, use of diagnostic tools, prudent prescribing, and continuous education of the public on Infection management and control.
3. Working with relevant stakeholders towards supporting all 47 County hospitals (up from the current 16) to become centers of excellence for antimicrobial stewardship
4. Collaborate in research, in pursuing avenues for funding and ensuring that the findings of such studies are disseminated, adopted, and implemented by our members

And to support this commitment we call upon-

The National Govt. to

1. Commit to strengthening and offering both legislative and financial support to the Quadripartite agreement, ensuring a collaborative and coordinated approach to tackling AMR.
2. Provide access to funding for routine surveillance on AMR and for continuous research on AMR and AMS

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3. Commit to support training on AMR and AMS in both pre-service training and in service training
4. Allow the representation of the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Interagency Committee to reflect the One Health Approach.

County Governments to

1. Commit to adhere to staffing norms necessary to ensure effective IPC, diagnostic stewardship, clinical stewardship, patient safety and health worker safety as recommended by National policies.
2. Commit to ensuring that all antimicrobials in the essential medicines list are always available in all govt. facilities and that they have and adhere to an AMS charter
3. Implement an effective community health strategy with education on AMR as a key deliverable

PPB

1. Effectively enforce the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Cap 244) and Food, drugs and chemical substances act (Cap 254)
2. Bolster the pre-existing monitoring of antimicrobial use and use patterns by utilization of digitally deployed audit and feedback mechanisms
3. Strengthen established quality authentication processes for registered pharmaceutical agents in the Kenyan market.

Dr. Diana Marion,

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