**Survey: Sustainable practices to tackle antimicrobial resistance in European hospitals**

Antibiotics are vital medicines in the treatment of bacterial infections. Their effectiveness, however, is threatened by the spread of drug-resistant bacterial strains. Described by England’s Chief Medical Officer as a “[catastrophic threat](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/antimicrobial-resistance-poses-catastrophic-threat-says-chief-medical-officer--2)”, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is estimated to cause [700,000 deaths per year globally](https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper%20_with%20cover.pdf).

In June 2017, the European Commission adopted the new [EU One Health Action Plan against AMR](https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/amr_action_plan_2017_en.pdf), aiming to make the EU a “best practice region”. This plan supports Member States in delivering innovative, effective, and sustainable responses to AMR, as well as reinforcing the research agenda for AMR and promoting global action. The primary objective of this plan is to preserve effective antimicrobial treatments for infections in humans and animals, whilst proposing measures for increasing the development and availability of new effective antimicrobials both inside and outside the EU.

The UN Environment report [*Frontiers 2017: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern*](https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/frontiers-2017-emerging-issues-environmental-concern) links growing AMR to the discharge of drugs and particular chemicals into the environment and identifies this as one of the most worrying health threats today. Experts view the promotion of antibiotic resistant bacteria as “[the greatest human health concern](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25844810)” posed by the presence of pharmaceutical residues in the environment and note that, in addition to fostering the spread of resistant pathogens, antibiotic residues can also turn harmless environmental bacteria into carriers of resistance.

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe’s vision is that healthcare mobilises its ethical, economic, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable and healthy world. One of our over-arching goals is to transform the supply chain, to leverage healthcare’s purchasing power to drive policies and markets for ethically produced, healthy, and sustainable products and services. The environmental impacts of products and services procured for the healthcare sector (such as pharmaceuticals) should be considered in purchasing decisions in order to ensure that the sector takes a holistic approach to protecting human health and strives to truly “do no harm”.

As part of our [Safer Pharma campaign](http://www.saferpharma.org), we have developed this survey, the first of this kind at the EU level, to investigate best practices to tackle AMR in the healthcare systems across Europe.

Responses to this survey will be put together in a compendium of case studies, which will subsequently be published online and in the form of a report. By completing this survey, you agree to the publication of your responses. The aim of publishing these case studies and report is to provide examples of best practice for other hospitals and health systems, and also to inform policy makers and pharmaceutical manufactures about leading initiatives on the ground (and the need for them).

Please fill out the survey and return via email to aidan.long@hcwh.org by **28 February 2019**.

All questions should be answered and all fields should be filled out as thoroughly as possible.

**Survey**

**A. About you**

First name:

Last name:

Position:

Email address:

Telephone number:

*(Personal data and/or contact details will not be made public and will only be used to contact you regarding your submission to this survey - they will not be used for any other purpose)*

*(delete as appropriate)*

* I accept
* I do not accept

**B. About your hospital**

Name of hospital:

Address 1:

Address 2:

Country:

Postcode:

How many beds does your hospital have?:

How many patients does your hospital care for annually?:

How many staff are employed at your hospital?:

How many patients with resistant infections are treated at your hospital per year?:

**C. Your experience/activities**

1. What are the main actions taken at your hospital to address the threat posed by AMR?

2. Does your hospital have specific goals when addressing AMR? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

***If ‘Yes’, please answer questions 3-6. If ‘No’, please continue to section D.***

3. Have these goals been reached? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

4. Are these actions still on-going? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

5. What lessons have you learned in undertaking these actions?

6. What are the greatest challenges you/your team faced in tackling and preventing the spread of resistant infections in your hospital?

**D. Outcomes**

1. Does your hospital organise training sessions for doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare workers on how to better deal with AMR at hospital level? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, which aspects related to AMR do these training sessions cover? (e.g. prescription practices, hygiene, antibiotic stewardship etc.)

2. Does your hospital provide or distribute materials to inform patients and the general public on the threat of AMR? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, please describe the format of these materials and the information they cover, as well as any links to materials available online:

3. Does your hospital take measures to improve sanitation infrastructure in your hospital to prevent the spread of resistant bacteria? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, please describe these measures:

4. What pharmaceutical waste management practices are in place at your hospital?

*(Please list all techniques in place)*

5. Does your hospital have any mitigation measures in place to reduce pharmaceutical residues entering the environment?

*(Please list all applicable measures)*

6. Is there a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in your hospital equipped to filter infectious bacteria? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, please describe the technology/methods your hospital’s wastewater treatment plant uses:

7. Does your hospital implement an antibiotic-free sustainable food policy? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

8. Does your hospital include environmental criteria in pharmaceutical procurement decisions? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, please describe your hospital’s requirements for providers:

9. Does your hospital ask providers for the origin of the antibiotic active ingredients (APIs)? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

10. Does your hospital ask providers if they have environmental policies in place at their manufacturing sites? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

11. Does your hospital ask providers if they have environmental policies in place throughout their supply chain? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

12. Is your hospital involved in any research activity on AMR? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes, please describe these activities:

13. Have measures to address AMR at your hospital had an impact on costs/finances? *(delete as appropriate)*

* Yes
* No

If ‘Yes’, what has the impact been? (Please provide data where available):

**E. Your opinion on pharmaceutical pollution (optional)**

*(Please note that any responses to this section of questions will remain completely anonymous. The answers from this section will be aggregated for statistical purposes and may be used by HCWH Europe when communicating with external stakeholders such as policy makers and pharmaceutical manufactures. Individual responses, however, will never, under any circumstances, be shared with third parties.)*

1. Do you see a link between pharmaceutical pollution and the spread of AMR indeveloping and emerging countries (where most antibiotic active ingredients and finished dose antibiotics are produced)?

* Yes
* No

2. Are you concerned about the pollution from the manufacture of pharmaceuticals?

* Yes
* No

3. Do you think it's important that pharmaceutical manufactures have sound environmental management policies in place at their manufacturing facilities?

* Yes
* No

4. Do you think it's important that pharmaceutical manufactures have sound environmental management policies in place throughout their supply chains?

* Yes
* No

5. Do you think that pharmaceutical manufactures should be responsible for pollution that occurs throughout their supply chains?

* Yes
* No