

Draft CED Resolution

Antimicrobial Resistance 2018 Update

FOR APPROVAL – 16 NOVEMBER 2018

I - INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 340,000 dentists across Europe. The association was established in 1961 and is now composed of 32 national dental associations from 30 European countries.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing, worldwide phenomenon that threatens the prevention and treatment of a wide range of infections in humans and animals. The leading researcher on this issue, Jim O'Neill, estimates that it will lead to 10 million deaths by 2050 if AMR is not contained and no new antibiotics are made available. In the European Union alone, AMR is responsible for 25,000 deaths annually and a loss of 1.5 billion Euros.¹

By now, the leading global actors like the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Union (EU) and most national governments have acknowledged the potentially disastrous consequences and tackling AMR has become a policy priority. Following the WHO's 2015 Action Plan², the EU published its second Action Plan on AMR³ in 2017 to set up a pathway for the EU to increase activities to minimise the spread of AMR and to better support member states in their fight against it. The EU should hence become a best practice region, research development and innovation should be boosted and the EU wants to put more efforts into shaping the global agenda on AMR.

II - ANTIBIOTICS AND DENTISTRY

Relatively little attention continues to be paid to the use of antibiotics in dentistry, although antibiotics account for the vast majority of medicine prescribed in dentistry. In comparison, analgesics, antifungal and antiviral agents, represent a small proportion. The widespread use of antibiotics in primary care, including dentistry, is considered as one of the driving factors of AMR.

The serious consequence of AMR in general healthcare is that, increasingly, some infections cannot be treated. Indeed, even the everyday infections and diseases may not soon be prevented or treated. The CED recognises that dentistry has its own part to play in preventing the loss of effective antibiotics agents in the treatment of human infection. It is therefore essential in terms of both public and oral health that dentists prescribe antibiotics only when they are necessary and appropriate. Clinicians who consider their prescribing patterns and modify them appropriately can make a genuine difference to the emergence and growth of resistant bacterial strains. The CED appreciates that many EU countries now have guidelines for the use of antibiotics in human health and some countries even specifically publish guidance for the use of antibiotics in dentistry.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1762_en.htm

² <http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/global-action-plan/en/>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/amr_action_plan_2017_en.pdf

III – ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP (AMS)

AMS is an organisational or healthcare-system-wide approach to promoting and monitoring judicious use of antimicrobial drugs to preserve their future effectiveness. The dental profession can engage in stewardship actions at individual or organisational levels. There are several published examples of audit and feedback playing a significant role in raising awareness of published evidence based prescribing guidelines and encouraging appropriate antibiotic prescribing.

The CED believes that it is important to engage on this topic at the global, European and national level and is involved in a variety of activities to raise awareness about the topic and promote Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) on the policy agenda. For instance, the CED continues to be involved in the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) organised by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and is contributing to the Stakeholder Forum of the EU's Joint Action on AMR and Healthcare Associated Infections (JAMRAI).

IV - CED STATEMENTS

1. Dentists join with doctors and veterinarians in recognising that they should now be aware of the implications of the inappropriate use of antibiotics in healthcare;
2. Responsible prescribing across all disciplines of healthcare means that it might be possible to preserve the usefulness of antibiotic medicines for clinical situations where they are genuinely needed;
3. Where antibiotic prescribing is indicated, the choice of antibiotics and dosing regimens must be optimised for targeted and efficient therapy to assist in the avoidance of the development of further resistant strains;
4. Dental professionals should make every possible effort to prevent cross-transmission of resistant bacteria in dental health care through effective infection control and prevention (IPC) measures;
5. The dental profession has a role in raising public awareness of effective antimicrobial stewardship and the value of restricting the use of antibiotics to those cases of severe infection that require them;
6. Achieving optimum prescribing rates will be a challenge to the dental profession because of pressure from patients but is nevertheless a challenge that is important to try to meet;
7. Antibiotics should not be available for purchase by unregulated persons via the internet;
8. Dentists support the improvement of knowledge and understanding of AMR and AMS through better information, intelligence and data;
9. The sharing of best practice in AMS actions between CED member organisations is encouraged and facilitated.
10. Dentists encourage investment in research and development of new drugs and medical devices and in ensuring that they reach the market swiftly.

For Adoption at the November 2018 General Meeting