




HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Programme

Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention & Control: A vision for the empowerment of the Role and Future of Nursing in Ireland focusing on Prevention of HCA and AMR.

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Background

- HCAI/AMR response team was established in May 2017 by the HSE Leadership team prompted by the immediate risk to the healthcare delivery system posed by the increase of CPE and also to focus on the wider issues of control of healthcare associated Infection (HCAI) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across all services in healthcare
- Infection Prevention and Control nursing skills are a critical element of the team.
- The first National DON was appointed to the Antimicrobial Resistance Infection Control Team (AMRIC) in May 2019 as a Senior Nurse Manager with an Advisory function to support the development and implementation of HCAI/AMR initiatives across Acute hospitals, Community Care and Primary Care, thus providing leadership/strategic planning and change management support




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What is Healthcare associated Infection (HCAI)?

- A HCAI is an infection that is acquired after contact with the healthcare services.
- The five most common HCAI's are
 1. Surgical site infection
 2. Pneumonia
 3. Urinary tract infection
 4. Bloodstream infection
 5. Gastroenteritis



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HCAI can cause:

- more serious illness
- prolongation of stay in a health-care facility
- long-term disability
- excess deaths
- high additional financial burde
- high personal costs on patients and their families

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Antibiotics are a precious resource. They are very useful drugs and save lives. However using antibiotics when they are not needed is a waste of time and money and hinders the fight against infections in the future. Using antibiotics needlessly allows bugs that cause infections to build up resistance against antibiotics and renders them useless over time. Very few new types of antibiotic are being developed, which means that we must make sure that the ones we have remain effective against infections for the sake of future generations

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What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- Antimicrobial resistance occurs when an antimicrobial that was previously effective is no longer effective to treat an infection or disease caused by a micro-organism
- Resistance is a natural phenomenon that will inevitably occur when antimicrobials are used to treat disease
- Problem ?

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Future:

Antimicrobial Stewardship (AS)?
 What is it ?

What is its function?

What is the Plan ?

Endorsement ?




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Why is antimicrobial stewardship important?

The primary goal of the **antimicrobial stewardship** program is to


- optimize clinical outcomes while minimizing unintended consequences related to **antimicrobial** usage, such as toxicities or the emergence of resistance.
- Do the Patient No Harm (Nurses Professional Code of ethics NMBI)**



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Role of AMRIC Director of Nursing

Raise awareness and recognition of HCAI and AMR
 Lead on clinical professional practice contributing to National Strategies, Hand Hygiene National *initiatives with deliverables* e.g training programmes/promotional tools
 Standardise policies, guidelines, communication through appropriate Governance structures
 HCAI, Surveillance and work within the context of existing HSE Governance structures
 Link with all relevant divisions in the HSE Directorate including the Q&PS Directorate OMNSD \Hospital Groups CEO and CHO areas and promote an integrated approach to the Clinical Governance of the HCAI/AMR programme (to name but a few)



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What is Infection Prevention & Control Nursing ?

- **Infection Prevention and Control** is a scientific approach and practical solution designed to **prevent** harm caused by **infection/colonisation** to patients and healthcare workers.
- It is grounded in **infectious** diseases, epidemiology, social science and health system
- Best evidence based practice to prevent transmission/harm and infection

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The Role of the Infection Prevention and Control Nurse.

Multi-talented specialist advisor, educator, leader
 Links with all grades of staff that fa within all the Healthcare Services.
 Works as part of the IP&CT which anti microbial pharmacist/microbiol

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Role of the Registered Nurse

- Governed by professional code of conduct (NMBI)
- Provides **hands on care** to the patient by *administering medication, managing intravenous lines, observing and monitoring patients condition, monitoring and recording and communicating to the medical staff*
- The nurse is well placed in the service to aid in the prevention of transmission of HCAI/AMR and become role models
- Nursing work force is the largest in the healthcare system and can contribute greatly in prevention of HCAI and AMR


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Vision for Nursing
 As a national team plan to be proactive as opposed to reactive

Short-term to medium term goals
 Standardize tools/education/feedback
 Audit tools standardized /education/
 Feedback Infection prevention & control
 nursing metrics engagement with the OMNSD


Long-term goals
 Proper systems of surveillance short studies e.g urinary catheter infections
 Surveillance feasibility of SSI's
 Education and training Hand hygiene train the trainer programme continuation
 Guidelines streamlined nationally



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Key components


- > Clear vision
- > Stewardship.
- > Management support,
- > Leadership and accountability
- > Ownership of the problem.
- > Awareness
- > Empowerment
- > Ensure early or short term wins and then consolidate success/gains while progressing with more change and innovation



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Challenges

- Implementing IP&C programme/initiatives in an institution can be challenging.
- Resource's
- Apathy for the programme
- Competing with other national programme deadlines within services
- Currently firefighting as opposed to proactive prevention



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Nurses are the largest work force in Healthcare:

What is Empowerment ??

Empowerment for nurses :

Patient empowerment



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Conclusion

- Continue to improve awareness and knowledge of antimicrobial resistance amongst work force and patient awareness campaigns
- Power of Empowerment and Motivation amongst nurses and patients
- Surveillance of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use
- Reduce the spread of infection colonisation and disease
- Working closely together we can address the challenges and deliver on the wider issues of the control of HCAI and AMR

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References

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- Clean Care, Safe Care: Submission to Department of Health Service Capacity review 2017 Irish Society of Clinical microbiologists.

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