



How to implement policies and regulations to control antibiotic resistance in Taiwan?

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Multi-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs) are increasingly recognized as a global public health issue. The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen antimicrobial resistance as its theme for World Health Day 7 April 2011. WHO strongly recommends that governments conduct antibiotic stewardship for containment of antimicrobial resistance.

Government health policies and the health care systems in which they are implemented play a crucial role in determining the efficacy of interventions to contain antimicrobial resistance. National commitment to understand and address the problem is prerequisite. Creating a national intersectoral task force (membership to include health care professionals, veterinarians, agriculturalists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, government, media representatives, consumers and other interested parties) to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance, organize data collection and oversee local task forces is critical.

Effective action requires the introduction and enforcement of appropriate regulations and allocation of appropriate resources for education and surveillance. Prospective audit of antimicrobial use with direct interaction and feedback to the prescriber, performed by an infectious diseases physician through hospital accreditation and inspection and national health insurance payment system can effectively result in reduced inappropriate use of antimicrobials.

The combination of effective antimicrobial stewardship with a comprehensive infection control program has shown to limit the emergence and transmission of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. Continuing to promote hand hygiene in health care facilities and communities and conducting a project entitled “the integrated bundle to lower the healthcare associated infections” is Taiwan CDC’s top priority.

“ No action today, no cure tomorrow.” Taiwan CDC would make every effort to combat antimicrobial resistance by targeting consumers, prescribers and dispensers, veterinarians, managers of hospitals and diagnostic laboratories, patients and visitors to health care facilities, as well as national governments, the pharmaceutical industry, professional societies, and international agencies.