



WHO COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH WORKERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



World Health
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WHO/HIS/HWF/AMR/2018.1

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Suggested citation. WHO competency framework for health workers' education and training on antimicrobial resistance. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/HIS/HWF/AMR/2018.1). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

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Editing: Vivien Stone, Etchingham, United Kingdom.

Layout: L'IV Com Sàrl, Villars-sous-Yens, Switzerland.

Printed in Switzerland.



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Foreword

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents a major health and socioeconomic threat, with the potential for devastating consequences to the health of millions of people globally if concrete steps are not taken to address it. The appropriate use of antimicrobial medicines for preventive and curative measures is vital to ensure continued success with common and complex medical interventions, and to slow or reverse the progress of resistance. Since the adoption of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance by Member States in May 2015, remarkable progress has been made by all stakeholders to ensure that AMR is getting the attention it deserves and is a priority on the health action agenda in countries. Global programmes and events, such as the World Antibiotics Awareness Week, continue to help raise public awareness and understanding to scale up action.

The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in human medicine and food production have contributed to the increase in the prevalence of AMR. In the human health sector, a major reason given by health workers and students for the misuse of antimicrobials is the lack of understanding and adequate expertise to address AMR. A key approach to address this challenge and ensure the appropriate use of antimicrobials is to ensure that health workers acquire, through their education and training, the competencies required to prevent and combat AMR, as stated in the first objective of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR. Although most countries have a national action plan to address AMR, the variability in quality and uneven coverage of initiatives to strengthen education and training of health workers on AMR require a standardization of educational resources for AMR that reflects global evidence and best practices but can be adapted locally. Education and training capacity and resources are currently known to differ markedly across regions and settings. This WHO competency framework for education on AMR is strategic and timely, given the widespread perception among health workers of insufficient knowledge and expertise on the topic, resulting in inappropriate antimicrobial prescription and use practices. This competency framework is intended to serve as a reference for academic institutions, educators, accreditation bodies, regulatory agencies and other users to help ensure that pre-service education and in-service training equip health workers with the requisite competencies to address AMR. It complements other relevant existing WHO guidance on AMR and lays the foundation for the development of more in-depth educational resources and AMR curricula.

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Acknowledgements

The development of the WHO competency framework for health workers' education and training on antimicrobial resistance was coordinated by the WHO Health Workforce Department and the AMR Secretariat with inputs from the Service Delivery and Safety and Essential Medicines and Health Products departments. The following WHO staff were responsible for coordinating the development of the document: Onyema Ajuebor, James Campbell, Giorgio Cometto (Health Workforce Department); Marcus Sprenger, Elizabeth Tayler (AMR Secretariat). WHO staff from other departments also provided contributions: Nicola Magrini, Lorenzo Moja, Ingrid Smith (Essential Medicines and Health Products Department); Sergey Eremin, Breeda Hickey, Karen Mah (AMR Secretariat); Benedetta Allegranzi, Hiroki Saito, Sara Marie Tomczyk (Service Delivery and Safety Department); Andreas Reis (Information, Evidence and Research Department); Saskia Andrea Nahrgang, Danilo Lo Fo Wong (WHO Regional Office for Europe); Klara Tisocki (WHO South-East Asia Regional Office). Administrative assistance was provided by Beatrice Wamutitu (Health Workforce Department). The following WHO interns provided review support: Yumi Ishikawa (Health Workforce Department); Johannes Koehler (Information, Evidence and Research Department); Martin Plymoth (AMR Secretariat).

WHO is grateful to the following individuals for preparing the mapping analysis of AMR educational tools and resources ahead of the WHO expert consultation meeting on health workforce and AMR education held 23–24 March 2017: Steven Hoffman, Sara Jones, Susan Rogers Van Katwyk (Global Strategy Lab, University of Ottawa).

All participants at the WHO expert consultation meeting on 23–24 March 2017 are also acknowledged for their contribution to the conceptualization of the competency framework, the identification of relevant competencies, and for providing quality assurance and feedback on earlier drafts of the document: Israel Bimpe (International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation), Edith Blondel-Hill (Interior Health Authority, British Columbia), Joana Carrasqueira (International Pharmaceutical Federation), Enrique Castro-Sánchez (Imperial College London), SABIHA ESSACK (University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa), Siobhan Fitzpatrick (World Federation of Medical Education), Lindsay Grayson (University of Melbourne and Monash University), Lauri Hicks (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta), Steven Hoffman (Global Strategy Lab, University of Ottawa), Alison Holmes (Imperial College London), Bijie Hu (Zhongshan Hospital of Fudan University), Frances Hughes (International Council of Nurses), Benedikt Huttner (University of Geneva Hospitals), Kumud Kumar Kafle (Tribhuvan University & Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics, Nepal), Zuzana Kusynova (International Pharmaceutical Federation), Gabriel Levy-Hara (Hospital Carlos G Durand, Argentina), Caline Mattar (Junior Doctors Network/World Medical Association), Marc Mendelson (University of Cape Town, South Africa), Dilip Nathwani (University of Dundee & British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy), Leonardo Pagani (General Hospital of Bolzano, Italy & European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease), Barbara Potter (Public Health Agency of Canada), Céline Pulcini (Université de Lorraine, France), Susan Rogers Van Katwyk (Global Strategy Lab, University of Ottawa), Susie Sanderson (British Dental Association), Nandini Shetty (Public Health England), Neil Squires (Public Health England), Julia Tainijoki-Seyer (World Medical Association), Karin Thursky (National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship, University of Melbourne, Australia), Preet Tohver (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations).

WHO is also grateful to all individuals, partners and institutions involved in the consultation reviews at the various stages of development of this tool: Bojana Beović (University Medical Centre Ljubljana), Kelly Cairns (Alfred Health, Australia), Maciej Piotr Chlebicki (Singapore General Hospital, Singapore), Aubrey Clark, Jude Nwokike, Farouk Umaru (United States Pharmacopeial Convention), Oliver Dyar (Karolinska Institutet), Linus Ndegwa (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kenya), Douglas Slain (West Virginia University, United States of America), Jorgen Stassijns (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium), Evelina Tacconelli (University Hospital of Tübingen, Germany & European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease), Adrian M Viens (Centre for Health Ethics and Law, University of Southampton), Agnes Wechsler-Fördös (Hospital Rudolfstiftung Vienna & Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics, Austria).

WHO is grateful to the governments of Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany for their financial contributions to this project.

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