

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands

Our call to action to health workers

Newsletter, 15 November 2016

In this special edition newsletter:

- [Out now - new WHO Guidelines on Core Components for Infection Prevention and Control Programmes at National and Acute Health Care Facility Level](#)
- [This week is World Antibiotic Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#)
- [Don't forget...!](#)

Out now – new WHO Guidelines on Core Components for Infection Prevention and Control Programmes at National and Acute Health Care Facility Level

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health today. These new WHO guidelines aim to support countries as they develop and execute their national AMR action plans, in the process of strengthening their health systems. They are the result of careful evaluation of the best available evidence combined with knowledge from international experts, and wisdom and lessons learned from country experiences. The guidelines cover eight areas of IPC and include 11 recommendations and three best practice statements. They include the following recommendations, which are specifically focused on addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR):

- An IPC programme with a dedicated, trained team should be in place in each acute health care **facility** for the purpose of *preventing health care-associated infection (HAI) and combating AMR through IPC good practices*
- Stand-alone, active **national** IPC programmes with clearly defined objectives, functions and activities *for the purpose of preventing HAI and combating AMR through IPC good practices* should be established. National IPC programmes should be linked to other relevant national programmes and professional organizations
- Evidence-based guidelines should be developed and implemented *for the purpose of reducing HAI and AMR*. Education and training of relevant health care workers on guideline recommendations and monitoring of adherence with guideline recommendations should be undertaken to achieve successful implementation
- At the **facility** level, IPC education should be in place for all health care workers by using team- and task-based strategies which are participatory and include bedside and simulation training *to reduce the risk of HAI and AMR*
- **Facility**-based HAI surveillance should be performed to guide IPC interventions and detect outbreaks, *including AMR surveillance* with timely feedback of results to health care workers and stakeholders and through national networks
- **National** HAI surveillance programmes and networks which include mechanisms for timely data feedback and with the potential to be used for benchmarking purposes should be established *to reduce HAI and AMR*
- At the **facility** level IPC activities should be implemented using multimodal strategies *to improve practices and reduce HAI and AMR*
- Regular monitoring/audit and timely feedback of health care practices should be undertaken according to IPC standards *to prevent and control HAIs and AMR at the*

health care facility level. Feedback should be provided to all audited persons and relevant staff

- In order to *reduce the risk of HAI and the spread of AMR*, the following should be addressed: (1) bed occupancy should not exceed the standard capacity of the facility; (2) health care worker staffing levels should be adequately assigned according to patient workload.

The guidelines are the culmination of a year-long initiative, with the active support, collaboration and technical expertise of CDC, which brought together scientists, academics, policy-makers and patient representatives, to systematically consider the evidence and experiences on what makes good IPC programmes work.

We believe that this is great step forward in ensuring every country and area can improve patient safety and quality of care!

To coincide with the launch of these new guidelines, we are also issuing a **new IPC infographic** and **IPC advocacy video** to support dissemination and publicity, as well as a **video message from Professor Dame Sally Davies**, Chief Medical Officer for England. The guidelines, infographic, advocacy video and a new academic publication are accessible [here](#). A **Webber Teleclass** by Dr Benedetta Allegranzi, on 14 November, outlining new WHO guidance, can also be accessed [here](#) for those unable to listen live.

An academic article featuring the recommendations and the evidence background will be also published in the open access, peer-reviewed journal *Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (ARIC)*, which further emphasizes the interconnection between AMR and IPC.

The next phase of the work will see WHO's IPC team working with CDC on the development of implementation guidance and tools with a focus on low-resource settings, including IPC advanced training packages to support a successful uptake of the recommendations and the creation of new in-country IPC expertise.

This is World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW)

WHO is leading a global campaign Antibiotics: Handle with care to improve awareness and understanding of this urgent problem among the public, policy-makers, health and agriculture professionals. This is a wide-reaching and critical campaign, for which the latest information and campaign materials can be found [here](#), for use this week and all year round. This year, WAAW has combined key infection prevention and control messages within the campaign materials.

Don't forget...!

As a further contribution to the fight against HAIs and AMR, the new Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site Infection and associated resources can be found [here](#)

We ask that everyone supports the efforts to widely disseminate these guidelines and the related Lancet Infectious Disease articles, which were published on the same day (3 November 2016).

Remember to check WHO water, sanitation and hygiene [web pages](#) for resources related to IPC and AMR, including a new information sheet on how these three important global health topics interconnect and help save lives.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and attention to the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and other WHO infection prevention and control improvement initiatives.

The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit team

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

Past information on SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands can be found in previous newsletters <http://www.who.int/gpsc/news/en/index.html> and on our web pages <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/>

Providing WHO information has to be balanced with available resources, both human and financial. WHO do their best to translate their most relevant tools and documents. Regretfully, we are not currently in a position to translate this SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands newsletter into French or Spanish. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and hope that you will remain a valued reader of the newsletter.

La délivrance d'informations provenant de l'OMS dépend des ressources disponibles, à la fois humaines et financières. L'OMS, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soins Propre est un Soins plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en francés o español. Le pedimos disculpas por cualquier inconveniente que podamos causarle, y esperamos seguir contando con su valiosa participación como lector de nuestro boletín.