

## Statement of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists for the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) 2018

We have patients with life threatening infections in the hospital. They need the most efficient and appropriate therapies. However, to keep antibiotics working further steps are needed. In the field of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the [European Association of Hospital Pharmacists \(EAHP\)](#) – which represents the interests of 22.000 hospital pharmacists from 35 different European countries – has adopted a revised [position](#) to help maintain the efficiency of antimicrobial drugs and to prevent the further spread of AMR.

In the hospital sector, a stronger uptake of the multi-professional approach of antibiotic stewardship teams should be required to minimise the spread of antimicrobial resistance. EAHP consequently calls on national governments and health system managers to recognize the unique position of multi-professional stewardship teams. By utilising the specialised background and knowledge of the hospital pharmacists in antibiotic stewardship teams each hospital can make a contribution to keep antibiotics working for its patients. We as hospital pharmacists will continue to promote the multi-professional approach to safeguard the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs in the hospital sector so that antibiotics continue to keep working.

Also prevention measures such as vaccination and hygiene should not be forgotten. Tools like for example the one of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control should further be promoted among healthcare professionals to ensure that our antibiotics continue to be available in the future.

An increased investment to support the development of innovative proposals as well as arrangements for the maintenance of essential antibiotics are vital. Member States are consequently encouraged to make the necessary arrangements that combat medicines shortages of existing antibiotics and that offer incentives for practice based research projects to investigate new fields of infectious disease control such as immunotherapy and to optimise the cost-effectiveness of systems for surveillance on antibiotic use and resistance. The 'One Health' approach of the European Commission's action plan against AMR is a step in the right direction which also highlights the importance of the fact that measures in the human and veterinary sector as well as in the environmental field should complement each other.

We as hospital pharmacists encourage the European Commission to work on the implementation of this action plan to support our commitment to enable the safe and rational use of medicines for patients. We as healthcare professionals can keep antibiotics working only through collaboration.

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