



CP 2001/115 Final EN/fr

Original : FR

TITLE / TITRE

Proposal for additional medical information relating to the prudent use of anti-microbial agents in human medicine

Proposition de complément d'informations médicales relatif à l'utilisation prudente des agents anti-microbiens en médecine humaine

AUTHOR / AUTEUR

Dr CALLOC'H

CONCERNING / CONCERNE

All delegations
Approved during the Board meeting on the 22/09/2001

Toutes les délégations
Approuvé lors de la réunion du Conseil le 22/09/200

PURPOSE / OBJET

INFORMATION

DATE

22/09/2001

KEYWORDS / MOTS CLEFS

Antimicrobial _ Anti-microbien

PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PRUDENT USE OF ANTI-MICROBIAL AGENTS IN HUMAN MEDICINE

(Additional information extending the proposed Council recommendation of 25 June 2001)

1. RECOMMENDATIONS TO DOCTORS AND PATIENTS:

- stress the need for basic and continuing education of doctors: on families of antibiotics, their properties, their appropriate use in the care of patients and the concerns about developing anti-microbial resistance.
- stress the need to inform patients of their proper use and the importance of taking the drugs as prescribed.
- stress the need to inform patients of potential for interactions between prescriptions for antibiotic therapy.
- remember the need to consider the length of time off work, influence on social life and contagiousness (including lifestyle, crèches, international travel etc.)
- stress the need to inform public services regarding pollution and the fight against tobacco, as factors which encourage microbial pathologies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY MAKERS AND HEALTHCARE FUNDHOLDERS

- provide resources for basic and continuing education of doctors, dentists, pharmacists and veterinary surgeons;
- ensure that antibiotics are only available on prescription or administration by one of these properly qualified practitioners;
- provide financial and material resources necessary for the proper surveillance of developing problems and provide an early warning system at both national and European level;
- clearly set out guidelines which only recommend appropriate use and which are based on the cost/effectiveness and potential benefit of these drugs;
- creation of bodies or independent learned societies with powers to derive such guidelines based on the value of a treatment;
- ensure that licencing decisions are made in a scientific and transparent manner and encourage the safe and rational use of anti-microbial agents;
- in a similar manner, ensure that the decision to prescribe and/or administer a particular anti-microbial agent is made on the basis of scientific evidence and is not based on perverse financial incentives.
- to benefit the public health work to reduce antibiotic use
 - in agriculture, in fattening-up animals and in farm-produce industry
 - in veterinary medicine (1997 and 1998 - EU decisions to use only four antibiotics in meat)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN STRATEGY

- to make it clear that for the European medical profession, the strategies and synergies of collaboration with the American FDA should only complement those of the London-based EMEA in scientific terms, and should not be influenced by globalisation of the market.

- to make it clear that the future for pharmaceutical industries lies in:
 - genome study : as regards microbial replication
 - pharmacogenetics: in prevention and research of secondary effects on patients. But here the CP cannot ignore the fact that this research on live tissue has sparked off an ethical debate on the "patentability of life".

- these recommendations from CP are made with the full understanding that any new molecule used in antibiotic treatment requires ten to twenty years of initial study before marketing.

Dr L.J.CALLOCH
Deputy Secretary General, CNOM
Vice-President, Committee of the CP