



18 November 2020

Antibiotics' resistance: Report on European doctors' knowledge and attitudes

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) is releasing a **report on European doctors' knowledge of and attitudes towards antibiotics and antibiotics resistance** on European Antibiotic Awareness Day. The reports' findings are based on a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) study on this issue.

One of the main conclusions of the report is that the uptake of antibiotic stewardship teams in hospitals needs to be increased so that knowledge about antibiotics is passed on to healthcare professionals and patients in a more systematic way. Another is on the need to ensure that doctors' knowledge about resistance and prudent use remains up to date were among the conclusions of the report.

A further conclusion of the report is that the doctors who participated in the study have a basic knowledge about prudent use of antibiotics and the risk of resistance. Going into more detail, according to the study, "more than 70% of doctors agree to having good opportunities to provide advice on prudent use of antibiotics to individuals – but 63% answer insufficient time and no resources available for not being able to give out advice or resources to patients. Only 17% was able to give out advice or resources as needed".

They are also aware of their important role in providing advice on prudent antibiotic use to patients but a lack of resources and insufficient time are barriers for doing so in practice. The study offers data on where doctors take information about prudent use of antibiotics from:

"Published guidelines (44%) and training-conference/group (41%) are the two most frequent places from which doctors get information about resistance and prudent use of antibiotics – leaving information from the workplace on a low third place (38%) - information provided from the workplace is in need of improvement."

Moreover, the vast majority of doctors considers antibiotic resistance when treating patients and they are aware of the key role that they play in helping control antibiotic resistance. However, the report identified a need to increase the uptake of antibiotic stewardship teams in hospitals and to ensure that doctors' knowledge about resistance and prudent use remains up to date.



Note about the report, the study and the CPME's position:

The study is being released on European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD), which aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health professionals and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

The report was prepared by CPME with the help of the Danish Medical Association (Laegeforeningen). For the study, 7,351 doctors from the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) participated in a survey on health professionals' knowledge and attitudes about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance.

CPME highlighted the importance of prudent use of antibiotics in its 2013 position paper on antibiotic resistance. In this paper, CPME call upon:

- doctors to follow the guidelines on the prudent use of antibiotics, which means only prescribing antibiotics when necessary and ensuring use in correct dosage intervals and for the correct duration.
- CPME members give priority to education on and audit of the use of antibiotics.

For more information, please contact:

Annabel SEEBOHM
CPME Secretary General
Tel.: +32 2 732 72 02
secretariat@cpme.eu