

**From The Chief Medical Officer:
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HSS (MD) 1/2002

Chief Executives of HSS Boards
Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards
Primary Care Directors, HSS Boards
Directors of Nursing, HSS Boards
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSS Boards
Directors of Dental Services HSS Boards
Prescribing Advisers, HSS Boards
GP Medical Advisers, HSS Boards
Health Promotion Commissioners, HSS Boards
Head of Professional Pharmacy Services, CSA
Chief Executives, HSS Trusts
Medical Directors, HSS Trusts (for onward distribution to all infection control doctors)
Nursing Directors, HSS Trusts
National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (NI)
Pharmaceutical Services Directors, HSS Trusts
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, HSS Boards
Consultant Microbiologists
Microbiology Laboratory Managers
Regional Epidemiologist, CDSC
Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees
Registration and Inspection Units
Infection Control Nurses
Northern Ireland Council for Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education
Northern Ireland Centre for Postgraduate Pharmaceutical Education and Training
Regional Medicines and Poisons Information Service
General Practitioners
Community Pharmacists
Dental Practices
Members of the Regional Advisory Committee on Communicable Disease Control
AMRAP working group members

12 February 2002

Dear Colleague

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE ACTION PLAN

1. Dealing with the problem of resistance is a major public health priority. On 30 January 2002 the Minister, Ms Bairbre de Brún, launched the Department's Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan (AMRAP) at the Health Promotion Agency in Belfast. A copy accompanies this circular. The plan outlines the action required by a number of agencies, both within and without the Health Service- to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance over the next three years. It contains an executive summary with key action recommendations with the agencies responsible for progressing them highlighted.

2. The many recommendations necessarily involve a number of bodies and organisations, both professional and voluntary. Although the body responsible for implementation of each recommendation is detailed in the document it is recognised that in a number of cases, action is already in progress. In addition collaboration across and between different agencies will be required if the recommendations are to be successfully implemented. There will be a further letter to each of the agencies referred to outlining the recommendation(s) to be implemented and asking for details of how implementation will be achieved.
3. A workshop will be held on the morning of 20 March 2002 at the Mount Business and Conference Centre, Woodstock Link, Belfast to which all major stakeholders and other interested parties are invited. The objective of the workshop is to discuss the process of implementation of the report's recommendations. This will include identifying any 'gaps' in the plan, discussion on resource issues and consideration of methods of monitoring implementation and measuring success. Views on the report and the way forward are welcome and can be expressed there or earlier in writing.
4. An AMRAP implementation steering group under the umbrella of the Department's Regional Advisory Committee on Communicable Disease Control will soon be established to supervise progress.
5. For further information about this report, or the 20 March meeting please contact Jeff Dudgeon, Health Protection Team, Room C4.22, Castle Buildings, Belfast BT4 3SJ; Tel 90520083 email jeff.dudgeon@dhsspsni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

HENRIETTA CAMPBELL (Dr)
Chief Medical Officer

JUDITH HILL (Miss)
Chief Nursing Officer

NORMAN MORROW (Dr)
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

DOREEN WILSON (Mrs)
Chief Dental Officer