



**Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System**

# GLASS guide for national surveillance systems for monitoring antimicrobial consumption in hospitals



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# Foreword

We face a significant threat to global public health from increasing levels of antimicrobial resistance. Overuse and misuse of antimicrobials is driving resistance levels, and yet we lack valuable data to track and monitor consumption levels that would increase our understanding worldwide and help develop effective strategies and interventions. We urgently need mechanisms to monitor consumption of antimicrobials. And nowhere is this more pressing than in the hospital setting where bacteria are circulating widely and vulnerable patients are frequently prescribed high levels of antibiotics, creating an environment in which bacteria can rapidly become resistant.

This document aims to help countries establish mechanisms enabling routine monitoring of antimicrobial consumption, particularly in low-resource settings, that can generate data to help build a greater understanding of how antimicrobials are being used and consumed in national, regional and local hospitals.

Monitoring antimicrobial consumption within health-care facilities is an integral part of any antimicrobial stewardship programme to identify gaps in effective stewardship and highlight target areas for interventions. The data can help to monitor the impact of the interventions and establish a baseline from which to measure progress moving forward. It can also reveal areas where too few antimicrobials are reaching patients in need and thereby trigger new strategies to increase the access these patients should have to appropriate antibiotics.

A mechanism that enables data on antimicrobial consumption to be collected and analysed is an important tool and serves as a key complement to both antimicrobial resistance surveillance systems and effective infection prevention and control measures in the fight against AMR antimicrobial resistance.

We urge policy makers and hospital managers alike to make full use of this WHO guide on surveillance of antimicrobial consumption within hospitals to help optimise the use of these precious resources going forward and tackle one of the key drivers of resistance worldwide.

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