



# **Diagnostic stewardship**

**A guide to implementation in  
antimicrobial resistance  
surveillance sites**



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This guide has been developed to support the practice of robust microbiological diagnosis, including antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST), in patients presenting with clinical symptoms compatible with infectious diseases; a concept known as “diagnostic stewardship”. It is of particular relevance to health-care workers and laboratory and surveillance staff working in settings in which microbiological diagnosis is not systematically part of patient management or treatment decisions.

Staff at health facilities that conduct surveillance as part of the national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance programme and contribute data to the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) are strongly encouraged to use this guide to adapt practices, systems and organizational structures to enhance diagnostic stewardship. Patient management and use of antimicrobial medicines will improve, and accurate and representative AMR surveillance data will be generated to inform treatment guidelines and AMR control strategies.

Health administrators and policy makers who are responsible for the organizational and administrative structure at AMR surveillance sites will also find this guide of interest and assistance.

## **Main reference material**

The diagnostic stewardship concept refers to the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System: Manual for Early Implementation, Geneva: World Health Organization (2015); Leenstra T, Tambic A, van de Sande-Bruinsma N, Nahrgang S. Proof-of-Principle antimicrobial resistance routine diagnostics study (PoP-study) Protocol, Version 1.1 (April 2016); and Dik JW, Poelman R, Friedrich AW, Panday PN, Lo-Ten-Foe JR, van Assen S, van Gemert-Pijnen J Julia EWC, Niesters HGM, Hendrix R, Sinha B. An integrated stewardship model: antimicrobial, infection prevention and diagnostic (AID). *Future Microbiology*, 2015 Sep 1.

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# Acronyms

AMR	antimicrobial resistance
AST	antimicrobial susceptibility testing
CLSI	Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
EUCAST	European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
GLASS	Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System
SOPs	Standard operating procedures
WHO	World Health Organization

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