News from WHO headquarters

NEW IPC in maternity care training material and webinar
Maternal infections and sepsis are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity globally, accounting for at least 11% of all maternal deaths. Most maternal infections and their consequences can be avoided by implementing appropriate IPC practices, antenatal screening and appropriate antibiotic use.
On the 19th of November at 14:00-15:30 CET | 8:00-9:30am EDT, on the occasion of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), WHO will host a webinar entitled “Safe maternity care for all: the key role of IPC”. This webinar (see here for the promotional flyer) will bring together experts from WHO, academic institutions and the field of maternal care to discuss the problem of maternal infections and sepsis and the solutions to successfully prevent them. Find more information and register here!

During the webinar, WHO will also launch two new modules of the IPC training package for a safe care pathway for women and newborns on the IPC channel on the Open WHO MOOC website.

New policy brief on injection safety in the context of COVID-19 vaccination
This document provides the latest synthesis on WHO guidance and policy on injection safety progress, recommendations and practices in the context of the extraordinary increase in global injections throughout COVID-19 vaccination. WHO is highlighting that injection safety has not been universally implemented and also that shortages of syringes (in particular safety engineered syringes) are a serious potential risk. Reinforcement of training in safe injection practices is also required to avoid unsafe practices.
**AMR World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)**

**World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)** is celebrated from 18-24 November every year and the 2021 theme, *Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance*, calls on One Health stakeholders, policymakers, health care providers, and the general public to be Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness champions. Key resources and events are as follows:

- **Highlighted events** – there are a range of daily events that you can register for including:
  - 18 November - an AMR Youth Summit organised by the World Students Health Alliance
  - 19 November - webinar [*safe maternity for all: the key role of infection and prevention and control*](https://www.who.int) run by the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)
  - 22 November - [*global efforts and impacts on AMR in children*](https://www.who.int) run by the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)
  - 23 November - A session on [*Supporting the optimal use of antimicrobial medicines through innovation*](https://www.who.int) run by the AMR industry Alliance
  - 24 November – the WHO webinar series on [*Applying behavioural and cultural insights to tackle antimicrobial resistance*](https://www.who.int)

- **Campaign materials** – including an event toolkit, Go Blue campaign materials, comic strips and animations, social media squares, posters and slides

- **Will you “Go blue for AMR”?** - this is the global colour campaign inviting you to wear light blue when participating in WAAW events and includes [*Go Blue graphics materials*](https://www.who.int) for you to use, a range of participation ideas and [*a space for you to tell WHO how you will go blue*](https://www.who.int)
News from our partners

The US Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC)
The US CDC has a Be Antibiotics Aware Partner toolkit to support partners in promoting WAAW and which includes the following:
- social media posts and visuals (including details on the Global Twitter Storm at the bottom of the “social media posts” section)
- educational resources for both patients/families and healthcare professionals
- patient print materials page
- educational resources for HCP materials page

ICAN (Infection Control Africa Network)
The 8th ICAN Congress 2021 will be held virtually from 23 – 25 November 2021 with a pre-congress training workshop to be held on 22 November. Registration details and the full program are available here.

The congress will provide insight into the latest IPC research as well as the successful implementation of IPC programmes from some of the most knowledgeable professionals in the world of infection prevention and control.

There will also be the following daily keynote addresses:

24 November: Yves Chartier Memorial Lecture - The Hospital Environment and WASH by Prof Akin Abayomi - Honorable Commissioner for Health for Lagos State Ministry of Health.
25 November: Moving from Reactive to Proactive Responses in IPC by Dr Stacey Mearns - Senior Technical Adviser Emergency Health at the International Rescue Committee (IRC)
The Brazilian Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ABIH) will host a webinar on the multidisciplinary approach for antimicrobial stewardship on 24 November 20:00 Brasilia time.

The São Paulo Association of Epidemiology and Healthcare-associated Infection Control (APECIH) will be launching, via a short course from 18 to 23 November 2021 from 18:00 – 21:00, Brasilia time a "Practical guidance on how to implement an antimicrobial stewardship program" and further information can be found here. Please note that sessions and guidance will be delivered in Portuguese.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp is organising a 3-week course entitled Hospital-based Interventions to Contain Antibiotic Resistance in Low-resource Settings (AIM) which will be interdisciplinary and interactive. It consists of a common learning track and 3 specific learning tracks on Antibiotic Stewardship (ABS), Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) and Microbiological Surveillance (MS) in the hospital setting. The course dates are 25 April – 13 May 2022 and the application deadline is 15 November 2021. The course offers 5 ECTS credits 5 ECTS (European Credit Transfer Accumulation System). Further course information can be found here and an application can be made here.