

Position statement – Development of MURIA over the counter use of antibiotics in Africa

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Background

- Provision of reliable **antimicrobial consumption data** is a prerequisite to understanding antimicrobial resistance (AMR), since selection pressure from largely indiscriminate antimicrobial use, is one of the main drivers of resistance.
- The **Global Action Plan (GAP)** on AMR provides a '**One Health**' blueprint for national action plan development across human, animal, and environmental health, and calls for optimizing the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health in tandem with strengthening of the knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research.
- Central to these concerns is the doctrine **that overuse and misuse of antibiotics** is a key factor in facilitating emergence of resistance and the corollary that **self-prescribing** plays a dominant role in the equation in the developing world.

Purpose

- The purpose of this paper would be to draft a position statement to reduce the **misuse of antibiotics** (prescribing, dispensing, use) amongst all stakeholders across Africa, given the high prevalence of infectious diseases in Africa
- The position statement will subsequently help drive discussions with all key stakeholder groups within countries as well as future research efforts

Approach

- To draft a position statement, providing a guiding document that could reduce the misuse of antibiotics amongst all stakeholders across Africa. This could include improving prescriber knowledge, patient education and awareness, legislation on antibiotic OTC availability.

Outcome

- The position statement could result in prudent use of antimicrobials across Africa – focusing on reducing antibiotic OTC availability.
- A position statement from Africa on OTC use of antibiotics developed through the MURIA network might make a strong stance in reducing irrational antibiotic use
- The first steps are already being taken with a systematic review of self-purchasing of antibiotics in Africa, and potential ways to address this, ongoing with initiatives in both Kenya and South Africa
- We will be enlisting your help as we progress with this initiative

Thank you for your attention



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