

28 February 2017

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Antimicrobial resistance factsheet

Dear Francine

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to provide feedback on the above consultation. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with more than 5,500 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders. Our submission has been informed by feedback from experts in public health medicine and clinical microbiology on our Specialist Advisory Council. Most of our feedback on the draft factsheet is of a technical nature and is provided by way of track changes and the comments function on the Word document.

2. We welcome the development of the factsheet on antimicrobial resistance by the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ). We note that the goal of the factsheet is to help inform New Zealanders about anti-microbial resistance and its implications for health, and to provide a picture of the consensus of scientific opinion on this issue. We understand that target audiences are members of the public and Government policy makers, District Health Boards and intermediaries (ie, healthcare staff and professionals who work to influence people's choices and decisions), the livestock industry and the veterinary community. We welcome the document's broad audience.

3. The NZMA recognises that antimicrobial resistance is an increasing health threat of significance, both globally and to New Zealand. The development of antimicrobial resistance in humans and in other species are inextricably linked, and—while medical professionals have a key role to play in avoiding the overuse of antibiotics—a 'One Health' approach across human and animal health is needed to tackle the problem. We support antimicrobial stewardship being a national priority, requiring widespread commitment and leadership from all sectors in New

Zealand. We have previously endorsed guidelines by the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine on Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Control.¹

4. We suggest that the factsheet include an additional section on international governance. This is a critical issue. International governance structures, including rules and targets, are needed to ensure effective coordination and collaboration between countries' individual national strategies. We provide suggested wording for this section using track changes and draw attention to specific supporting references² (attached).

5. Further specific feedback is provided using track changes and the comments function on the Word document of the draft factsheet (attached).

We hope that our feedback has been helpful and look forward to viewing the finalised version of this factsheet. We would also be happy to help with the distribution of the final document.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Child
NZMA Chair

¹http://www.nzcpmh.org.nz/media/97734/2016_08_24_nzcphm_antimicrobial_resistance_policy_statement.pdf

²Metcalfe S, et al, on behalf of the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine and the New Zealand Medical Association [Editorial]. Combating antimicrobial resistance demands nation-wide action and global governance. N Z Med J. 2016;129(1444):8-14. Available from <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/read-the-journal/all-issues/2010-2019/2016/vol-129-no-1444-28-october-2016/7042> Freeman J, et al., Global governance is a key part of the solution to antimicrobial resistance (response to Gravatt). Available from N Z Med J. 2016;129(1447):100-101. <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/read-the-journal/all-issues/2010-2019/2016/vol-129-no-1447-16-december-2016/7117>