L.N. 122 of 2008

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
(CAP. 465)

National Antibiotic Committee Regulations, 2008

IN exercise of the powers conferred by articles 25 and 26 of the Public Health Act, the Minister for Social Policy has, after consulting the Superintendent of Public Health, made the following regulations:-

Title.

1. The title of these regulations is the National Antibiotic Committee Regulations, 2008.

Establishment of committee.

2. A National Antibiotic Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", is being established.

Duties of the Committee.

3. It shall be the duty of the Committee to:

(a) promote the understanding of, and support for, correct prescribing, dispensing and use of antibiotics amongst medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary professionals as well as the public at large;

(b) coordinate strategies to ensure the continued effectiveness of antibiotic agents used in the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases in humans and animals;

(c) develop and recommend strategies to comply with directives and recommendations issued by the European Union on antibiotic use and resistance;

(d) advise the Superintendent of Public Health on measures necessary to minimise antimicrobial resistance;

(e) foster the development of written guidelines and recommendations for evidence-based use of antibiotics in both hospitals and community settings;

(f) react in a timely and realistic way to acute problems in the field of antimicrobial resistance as they arise;

(g) keep abreast of the latest research and recommendations on antibiotic use and resistance and disseminate such information;

(h) tender all such advice as may be requested by the Superintendent of Public Health.

Surveillance.

4. (1) The Committee shall undertake, delegate or coordinate the establishment of surveillance systems to analyse trends in antibiotic resistance and use within hospitals as well as in the community.

(2) By virtue of the powers conferred by article 8 of the Public Health Act, the Committee shall act as an authorised body and collect, from any relevant entity, appropriate information concerning antibiotic resistance as well as data on the consumption, distribution and dispensing of antimicrobial agents used in the treatment and prevention of infections in humans and animals.

Composition of the Committee.

5. (1) The Committee shall be appointed by the Superintendent of Public Health and shall be composed as follows:-

(a) a chairperson;

(b) a specialist in Microbiology/Bacteriology;

(c) a specialist in Public Health Medicine;

(d) a specialist in Infectious Diseases;

(e) a specialist in Family Medicine;

(f) a pharmacist;

(g) a veterinary surgeon.

(2) There shall be a secretary to the Committee who shall be appointed by the Superintendent of Public Health.

The Committee to regulate own procedure.

6. The Committee shall regulate its own procedure.

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