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SECRET

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NCH/61/

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR  
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memorandum is to request for the approval by the National Council on Health on provision of support for Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan Implementation across the States in the country.

**INTRODUCTION**

Antibiotics (medicines) have saved millions of lives, reduced disease burden in humans and animals, improved quality of life, contributed to improved food production and safety and helped increase life expectancy. Modern human and veterinary medicine is built on access to effective antimicrobials.

**JUSTIFICATION**

The emergence and spread of resistance (antimicrobial resistance, AMR) to these medicines in several microorganisms is complicating management of many infectious diseases. The consequences of AMR are serious because resistant microbes fail to respond to standard treatment, resulting in prolonged illness, infectiousness, increased spread of disease, extended hospital stays, and greater risk of death. The impact of these adverse outcomes affects the functioning of both human and animal health systems and health economies more in the developing countries especially because of limited resources and their greater disease burden. AMR is decreasing the usefulness of modern antibiotics and jeopardises common and complex surgical procedures, while endangering animal health and welfare, as well as food production. In 2016, it was estimated that 10 million people will die annually from AMR by 2050 if current trends are unabated.

This memorandum is proposed to draw the attention of the National Council on Health that the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance in several microorganisms is of critical importance, highlight that there is little or no support for research into production of new medicines alongside and emphasise the resultant immediate and long term implications of these on the health and life expectancy of Nigerians.

**AMR INTERVENTION UPDATE**

The 68th World Health Assembly, in May 2015, recognised the threat of AMR to global health security and adopted the global action plan on AMR. The WHA resolution 68.7 specifically, requests member States and relevant partners to participate in an integrated global programme for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance across all sectors in line with the adopted global action plan.

Following the commitment of Nigeria to the WHA resolution, an inaugural meeting of the National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Technical Working Group (TWG) was held at Abuja on the 16th and 17th of January 2017. So far; the NCDC has recorded significant progress with the development of the AMR Situation Analysis and National Action

Plan (NAP) and both documents have been shared with stakeholders. The final draft of both documents was presented at the 71st World Health Assembly meeting, 22-31 May 2017.

Nigeria has also enrolled in Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) following the assessment of her laboratory capacity for AMR surveillance. Eight (8) laboratories have been assessed in preparation for reporting on AMR in the country; while one of the laboratories will function as the national reference laboratory for AMR. This will generate data for evidence based decision making. f

## **PRAYERS**

### **Council is hereby invited to note that:**

- I. AMR be recognised as a priority for action in the Federal Government by designating State focal points at the Ministries of health and every health facility
- II. State Specific AMR Action Plans need to be developed and funding for implementation provided
- III. Data on the use of antimicrobial agents in human and animal health be collected at all health facilities and veterinary clinics to monitor trends and strengthen laboratory capacity for AMR surveillance
- IV. National policies for implementation of infection prevention and control activities in health facilities be developed
- V. Rational use of antibiotics in Animal health and agricultural practice should be strengthened through implementation of Codex standards
- VI. Regulation for distribution and use of antimicrobial medicines in human, animal health and crop agriculture needs to be enforced
- VII. New public-private partnerships for research and development of vaccines, new antimicrobial agents and diagnostic tools should be created while strengthening existing ones.
- VIII. Encourage rational therapy by encouraging clinicians to base therapeutic decisions and antimicrobial selection on the guidance from laboratory culture and susceptibility testing and/or surveillance

### **Council is hereby invited to approve that:**

- I. One-Health multi-sectoral AMR Technical Working Groups be created and funded in all States of the Federation
- II. NCH (in collaboration with the NCDC) celebrates the Global Antibiotic Awareness Week in November of each year as an annual event
- III. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship (HAS) should be institutionalised in all secondary and tertiary health facilities in the country by the creation of IPC focal persons and IPC committees

**Honourable Minister of Health**

**June, 2018.**