

# **The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association on the frontline in the fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance.**

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- What is the CPA? <http://commonwealthpharmacy.org/>
- Not-for-Profit Association (charity) for pharmacists of countries belonging to the Commonwealth Association. Came into existence in 1970. The CPA is represented in each country by a councillor

- There are 6 regional groups of CPA in the world headed by a regional representative. The CPA regions are: Americas, Pacific, Europe, Central Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa and West Africa. Cameroon belongs to the West African Region comprising Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

- AMR
- According to WHO in 2013, 214000 neonatal deaths globally were attributed to resistant sepsis infection. WHO estimates that there are 480,000 new cases of Multi- drug resistant TB worldwide and that drug resistant tuberculosis kills 250,000 people annually in the world.

- A global action plan on AMR was endorsed by World Health Assembly in 2015 and embraced by CPA. The plan aims to
- 1 Improve the awareness and understanding of AMR

- 2 Strengthen surveillance and research.
- 3 Reduce the incidence of infection
- 4 Optimize the use of antimicrobial medicines
- 5 Ensure sustainable investment in countering antimicrobial resistance.

- The CPA is totally engaged in the fight against AMR. In the past few years, they initiated several campaigns to sensitize and awaken the medical profession to take note of the dangers we face due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics. e.g 'Antibiotic Guardian' campaign.

- The focal point of the 2017 Sydney conference (for delegates from all CPA member countries) was the drumming up of the AMR message. A webinar was hosted on the topic during the conference. I particularly recommend that you read the article titled 'Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship- a focus on the Commonwealth' published by Victoria Rutter, Diane Ashiru, Roger Odd at this link



- <http://www.rcpu.org.rw/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AMR-in-the-Commonwealth.pdf>
- In November 2017 CPA will observe the AMR week

- Pharmacists, especially hospital pharmacists are expected to play an important role in monitoring and sharing their experience in this field. The CPA expects you to form a network to report and share notes and the CPA is willing to give logistical support and guidance. The core of our discussion today is therefore how to put that into practice.

- The situation is compounded in Cameroon by the existence of fake products (According to Minilabs, about 7% of medicines in Cameroun are fake) and the indiscriminate sales of medicines on the streets and open markets.

- Typical habits observed in Cameroon
- Many people actually believe that any cough should be treated with antimicrobial drugs especially Amoxicilline, Amoxicilline & Clavulinic acid and cotrimoxazole. Self medication is widespread and the purchase of these medicines from dubious sources further complicates the problem.

- <http://www.njeitimah-outlook.com/articles/article/2088187/174346.htm>
- <https://www.thecommonwealth-healthhub.net/>

**Thank you for your attention**