



MAY 2014

// CED RESOLUTION

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

// INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is the representative organisation for the dental profession in the EU, representing over 340,000 practising dentists through 32 national dental associations. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession, the CED promotes high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred and evidenced-based professional practice across Europe.

// ANTIBIOTICS AND DENTISTRY

Relatively little attention has been paid to the use of antibiotics in dentistry, although antibiotics account for the vast majority of medicine prescribed in dentistry. In comparison, analgesics, antifungal and antiviral agents, represent a small proportion.

The serious consequence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in general healthcare is that, increasingly, some infections cannot be treated. Indeed, even the everyday infections and diseases may not soon be prevented or treated. The CED recognises that dentistry will suffer a significant crisis by the loss of antibiotics as effective agents in the treatment of human infection. It is therefore essential in terms of both public and oral health that dentists only prescribe antibiotics when they are necessary and appropriate. Clinicians who consider their prescribing patterns and modify them appropriately can make a genuine difference to the emergence and growth of resistant bacterial strains.

// CED STATEMENTS

1. Dentists join with doctors and veterinarians in recognising that they should now be aware of the implications of the inappropriate use of antibiotics in healthcare;
2. Responsible prescribing across all disciplines of healthcare will now mean that it might be possible to preserve the usefulness of antibiotic medicines for clinical situations where they are genuinely needed;
3. If the number of prescriptions issued in dentistry could be reduced then the selection of resistant strains should occur less frequently;
4. Where antibiotic prescribing is indicated, the choice of antibiotics and dosing regimens must be optimised for targeted and efficient therapy to assist in the avoidance of the development of further resistant strains;
5. Dental professionals should make every possible effort to prevent cross-transmission of resistant bacteria in dental health care;
6. It is important that the general public understands the importance of restricting the use of antibiotics to those cases of severe infection that require them;
7. Achieving low prescribing rates will be a challenge to the dental profession because of pressure from patients but is nevertheless a challenge that is important to meet;
8. Antibiotics should not be available for purchase by unregulated persons via the internet;
9. Dentists support the improvement of knowledge and understanding of AMR through better information, intelligence and data;
10. Dentists encourage investment in research and development of new drugs and in ensuring that they reach the market swiftly.

Unanimously adopted by the CED General Meeting on 23 May 2014