



RACGP

*RACGP input to the Priority Areas for Action for the
National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015-19*

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The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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The RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners. We represent more than 30,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice.

The RACGP works to support the profession through defining the standards for quality care, developing guidelines and resources, delivering education and training and advocating on behalf of general practices and general practitioners to promote the importance of a safe, quality and holistic approach to patient care.

Introduction

The RACGP recognises antimicrobial resistance as a significant global health issue. A unified and strategic approach to addressing the problem is required and we commend the Government on the development of the first National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.

The following activities outline activity undertaken by the RACGP relating to the Priority Areas for Action identified in the Strategy either completed or planned.

1. Quality use of medicines statement. RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice.

Description and link	<p>The RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice 2011 ('the curriculum') details what vocational general practitioners need to learn throughout their general practice learning life.</p> <p>Antimicrobial resistance is specifically included in the RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice under the quality use of medicines component. Strong foundations, therefore, already exist to further develop and build on the existing knowledge and skill base of GPs.</p> <p>The RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice 2011 is currently in the process of review with a new curriculum expected to be released in mid-2016.</p> <p>http://curriculum.racgp.org.au/statements/quality-use-of-medicines/</p>
Relevant Priority Action Area/s from Strategy	<p>Priority Action Area 1.2 – Increase support for human and animal health professionals in reinforcing key messages with patients and clients</p> <p>Priority Action Area 2.2 – Ensure the availability of evidence-based, best practice and nationally consistent approaches to AMS across human health and animal health sectors</p>
Lead organisation	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Partner organisations	Wide stakeholder consultation for the entire curriculum.
Major milestones	Curriculum reviewed on a three to four yearly basis.
Expected outcome/s	To promote effective community based prescribing.

2. Australian Family Physician

Description and link	<p>Australian Family Physician is the journal of the RACGP. It contains ongoing articles on the use of antimicrobials in Australian general practice and may cover topics such as communication skills, prescribing best practice, and infection control. Delayed prescribing is one strategy that has proven to be effective and education and practical tools in this should be a priority. One such example is Antibiotic use in residential aged care facilities.</p> <p>http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2015/april/antibiotic-use-in-residential-%E2%80%A8aged-care-facilities/</p>
Relevant Priority Action Area/s from Strategy:	<p>Priority Action Area 1.2 – Increase support for human and animal health professionals in reinforcing key messages with patients and clients</p> <p>Priority Action Area 2.2 – Ensure the availability of evidence-based, best practice and nationally consistent approaches to AMS across human health and animal health sectors</p>
Lead organisation	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Partner organisations	Article authors identified as key influencers of general practice care.
Major milestones	Antimicrobial resistance is included in general quality use of medicines continuing professional development for GPs. This article is one of the routine articles that appear on a regular basis to update general practitioners.
Expected outcome/s	Continuing professional development for general practitioners to assist appropriate prescribing in Australian general practice including residential aged care facilities.

3. Medical care of older persons in residential aged care facilities (silver book)

Description and link	<p>Medical care of older persons in residential aged care facilities (the silver book) aims to provide GPs and other health professionals including residential aged care nurses, with a resource for delivering quality health care in residential aged care facilities (RACFs).</p> <p>GPs play the major role in the provision of health care in RACFs and the silver book includes guidance on infection control and the treatment of infections (p42).</p> <p>A review is expected to commence in late 2015.</p> <p>http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/guidelines/silverbook/</p>
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Relevant Priority Action Area/s from Strategy	<p>Priority Action Area 1.2 – Increase support for human and animal health professionals in reinforcing key messages with patients and clients</p> <p>Priority Action Area 2.2 – Ensure the availability of evidence-based, best practice and nationally consistent approaches to AMS across human health and animal health sectors</p> <p>Priority Action Area 4.1 – Ensure availability of evidence-based, best-practice and nationally consistent standards for IPC across human health and animal care settings</p> <p>Priority Action Area 4.3 - Develop additional initiatives and resources to strengthen IPC in all human health care settings</p>
Lead organisation	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Partner organisations	Wide stakeholder input. Organisations listed in the guide pages v and vi
Major milestones	Antimicrobial resistance is incorporated into this document as well as information on appropriate infection control measures for antibiotic resistance management.
Expected outcome/s	Provide best practice evidence based guidelines into residential aged care facilities.

4. RACGP Standards for general practice (4th Edition)

Description and link	<p>Our Standards are one of the pillars of safety and quality in the Australian healthcare system and are used by over 80% of Australian general practices for accreditation.</p> <p>The existing regulatory framework in general practice is effective in ensuring high quality and safe care. Criterion 5.3.3 of the Standards is: Healthcare associated infections. <i>Our practice has systems that minimise the risk of healthcare associated infections</i></p> <p>http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/standards/standards4thedition/physical-factors/5-3/healthcare-associated-infections/</p> <p>To assist GPs and other staff implementing procedures involving infection prevention and control, the RACGP has produced (with support from the Department of Health) the Infection Prevention and Control Standards. http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/standards/infectioncontrol/</p> <p>We have previously reported that the RACGP Standards process has been open to discussion on the merits of including specific antimicrobial resistance criteria. However, it must be noted that it important that in general, the standards must not be too prescriptive at the risk of them becoming too burdensome and bureaucratic. Increasing regulatory burden usually come with</p>
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	<p>an additional cost and time burden for the GP which negatively impact on their ability to provide high quality care in other areas.</p> <p>The Standards are currently in a process of review with the next edition due in 2017.</p>
Relevant Priority Action Area/s from Strategy	<p>Priority Action Area 1.2 – Increase support for human and animal health professionals in reinforcing key messages with patients and clients</p> <p>Priority Action Area 4.1 – Ensure availability of evidence-based, best-practice and nationally consistent standards for IPC across human health and animal care settings</p>
Lead organisation	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Partner organisations	Extensive stakeholder consultation throughout the review process.
Major milestones	Continually updated to reflect best practice.
Expected outcome/s	The Standards are designed to keep Australian general practice at the forefront of safe, high quality healthcare delivery in Australia. Compliance with these standards will help to improve infection prevention and control practices across the sector.

Conclusion

To be successful and sustainable, stewardship programs need to be supported and multifaceted. We welcome the Government's focus on the development of strategy to addressing antimicrobial resistance in the community and again express our eagerness to have a constructive relationship with the Department of Health and other bodies in addressing the complex challenges it presents.