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General Circular No : 02-141/2025

Deputy Director General, National Hospital of Sri Lanka
Director, National Hospital, Kandy / National Hospital, Galle
All Directors of Teaching / Provincial / District General Hospitals
All Provincial and Regional Directors of Health Services
All Directors of Specialized Hospitals
All Heads of Institutions

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) - 2025
18th – 24th November 2025

Theme: "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future"

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is recognized by the World Health Organization as one of the top ten global public health threats. It occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines, leading to ineffective treatments, prolonged illness, and increased risk of severe outcomes.

By raising awareness during WAAW 2025, the Ministry of Health & Mass Media seeks to encourage collective action to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections and safeguard the health of present and future generations. During WAAW, special focus should be given to addressing key drivers of AMR, including the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials, strengthening accountability in prescribing practices, enhancing the implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, and improving AMR stewardship.

WAAW will be observed from 18th to 24th November 2025 under the global theme "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future." The objective of this campaign is to raise awareness on AMR, enhance understanding among the public and stakeholders, and promote responsible practices across the One Health spectrum to curb the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

In line with WAAW 2025, the Ministry of Health will implement nationwide awareness activities through hospitals, Medical Officer of Health offices, and mass media to engage communities and highlight the urgent need for collective action against AMR.

Objectives of the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2025

1. To educate the public about the dangers of antimicrobial resistance, its causes, and its impact on global health.
2. To emphasize how improper use of antimicrobials and other antimicrobial agents contributes to the problem.
3. To encourage healthcare providers to prescribe antimicrobials only when necessary and ensure patients complete their prescribed courses.
4. To develop awareness of guidelines for combating AMR, including regulations on antimicrobial use, funding for research, and improved infection control practices.
5. To strengthen partnerships among governments, healthcare providers, researchers, and communities to share knowledge, resources, and strategies for tackling AMR.
6. To highlight the need for ongoing research into new antimicrobials, alternative treatments, and diagnostic tools to stay ahead of resistant pathogens.
7. To educate the importance of infection prevention measures, such as vaccination, hygiene, and sanitation, to reduce the need for antimicrobials and prevent the spread of resistant infections.
8. To illustrate how AMR affects different regions and populations worldwide, stressing the need for a coordinated global response while addressing local challenges and solutions.
9. To empower individuals to take an active role in preventing AMR by educating themselves about the issue, understanding how to use antimicrobials properly, and advocating for responsible practices in their communities.
10. To establish a focused, impactful model for AMR awareness at the district level in Monaragala, encouraging sustainable antimicrobial practices, improving health outcomes, and ensuring collaborative actions across the human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

Key messages for WAAW 2025

- "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future"
- "Educate. Advocate. Act now" – to spread awareness, stop resistance!
- Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together
- Spread awareness, stop resistance
- United to preserve antimicrobials
- Fight antimicrobial resistance, it's in your hands! Think twice. Seek advice
- Inappropriate use of antimicrobials accelerates antimicrobial resistance
- Everyone, everywhere, at all ages, is affected by AMR
- Antimicrobials aren't always the answer!
- Never use leftover antimicrobials!
- Don't self-medicate!
- The future of antimicrobials depends on all of us!
- Stop antimicrobials if no evidence of bacterial infection
- Spread awareness and stop resistance
- Contribute together to combat Antimicrobial Resistance
- Only use antimicrobials when prescribed by a trained health professional
- Always take the full prescription even if you feel better

National level programmes for WAAW-2025


1. Conduct a media conference at the Health Promotion Bureau declaring the 'WAAW 2025'.
2. Conduct the national event, aimed at advocating the main themes of 'WAAW' under One Health, which is scheduled to take place in November 2025, in the Colombo district.
3. Develop Information Education Communication (IEC) materials to be communicated to the general public.
4. Conduct awareness programmes for the general public through electronic and print media to achieve the objectives of the 'WAAW', in collaboration with the Government and non-government organizations, development partners, and members of professional organizations or clinical societies.
5. Conduct national-level activities and events that are action-oriented, entertaining, and engaging to the public. Eg, Walkathons, sporting events, live music performances, and field / site visits.
6. The integrated One Health AMR awareness program in Monaragala district aims to create a sustainable and impactful model for addressing antimicrobial resistance.

Provincial, district, and divisional level programmes for WAAW 2025

1. Organize and conduct activities focusing on the theme of the 'WAAW' in collaboration with preventive and curative healthcare workers with "Go Blue for AMR".
2. Organize awareness programmes based on the 'WAAW' theme in schools and universities. Eg, debates, competitions, exhibitions, and panel discussions.
3. Community empowerment through the Medical Officer of Health to raise awareness of the proper use of antimicrobials.
4. Conduct provincial, district, and divisional-level activities and events that are action-oriented, entertaining, and engaging to the public. Eg, Walkathons, sporting events, live music performances, and field / site visits.
5. Organize a gathering of healthcare staff to visualize the live "National WAAW-2025 event" in respective institutions.

You are requested to send the report of these activities (including photo / video, if any) to ddgls.mohlk@gmail.com

For further details, please contact the Deputy Director General (Laboratory Services) Unit, Ministry of Health and Mass Media via TP: 011-2693138 / email ddgls.mohlk@gmail.com


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