

Laboratory Medicine in the Era of Disruptive Technology

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Adding value the role of clinical pathologist and laboratory medicine in reducing antimicrobial resistance

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A systematic misuse and overuse of antibiotics in human medicine and animal health have put every country at risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The increasing rate of AMR are threatening. Alert to this crisis, in 2015, World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a global action plan on AMR, which outlines five objectives; (1) to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance; (2) to strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research; (3) to reduce the incidence of infection; (4) to optimize the use of antimicrobial agents; and (5) to ensure sustainable investment in countering antimicrobial resistance. As part of the WHA global action, the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) recommend a platform for global data sharing on AMR. The system will gather data on resistance in 8 priority bacteria (*Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Acinetobacter* spp., *Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumoniae, Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) detected in 4 types of specimens (blood, urine, stool, genital swabs) taken from patients. The data generated will help to inform national, regional and global decision-making, strategies and advocacy.

From those actions above, it is clear that the role of Clinical Pathologist and Laboratory Medicine is very important in reducing AMR. We can contribute through; 1) generate accurate result of culture and susceptibility testing in timely manner, 2) generate susceptibility pattern periodically, 3) specifically reporting multidrug resistant microorganisms, 4) Involved in surveillance team of AMR and MDROs, 5) Involved in Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Stewardship Program team.

