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To all interested in or involved with antimicrobial guidelines development

Tēnā koutou,

We are delighted to share that we have recently received support from Te Niwha to study and improve equity in antimicrobial use in Aotearoa. As part of this project we plan to develop and deliver national antimicrobial guidelines for Aotearoa that will serve as the standard for antimicrobial prescribing. We will also develop reporting systems that feedback antimicrobial data to identify inequities in the treatment of infectious disease, promote appropriate antimicrobial therapy, and facilitate research.

Currently, we have at least six different Te Whatu Ora district or regional antimicrobial guidelines developed by various hospital-based antimicrobial stewardship groups across the country. Alongside these are Community HealthPathways (all districts), Hospital HealthPathways (some districts), and bpacnz primary care guidelines. Thus, our small country has considerable duplication in antimicrobial guideline development, as well as variation in content and accessibility. An equity focus is generally lacking, and some of these guidelines require updating.

We will work transparently, inclusively, and collaboratively with Māori, Pacific people, experts in antimicrobial use and infection, and key organisations and groups to:

1. Harmonise existing antimicrobial guidelines into a national antimicrobial guideline;
2. Develop a freely accessible 'app' and desktop version of the guidelines with an interface suitable for connection with existing resources including HealthPathways, NZ Formulary and prescribing software;
3. Create a promotional package to launch the national antimicrobial guideline and facilitate uptake amongst clinicians, health organisations and the wider community.

This letter serves to introduce our work on development of a national antimicrobial guideline. We need to engage specifically with many groups and organisations essential for the success of our project including (but not limited to) existing antimicrobial stewardship groups, Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora, Manatū Hauora, Pharmac, HealthPathways, He Ako Hiringa, and NZ Formulary.

At this stage we are just beginning to plan the next steps and we hope that you will contact us to share your ideas about how we can best keep you informed about our progress.

Key contacts for guideline content development (Sharon and Sarah), guideline delivery (Eamon), and the broader project (Steve, Karen or Lily) are below:

- Guideline content, and stakeholder list: antimicrobials@cdhb.health.nz
- Guideline delivery: EamonD@adhb.govt.nz
- Other enquires including media: s.ritchie@auckland.ac.nz
karen.wright@auckland.ac.nz
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Please share this letter amongst your networks. We hope we can partner with you to develop an essential resource for Aotearoa and look forward to your support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Stephen Ritchie	Infectious Diseases Physician	University of Auckland
Lily Fraser (<i>Kāi Tahu</i>)	General Practitioner	Turuki Healthcare
Karen Wright (<i>Kāi Tahu</i>)	Public Health Physician	Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, University of Auckland
Sharon Gardiner	Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist	Te Whatu Ora Waitaha
Eamon Duffy	Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist	Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai
Leanne Te Karu (<i>Ngāti Rangī, Te Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Muaūpoko</i>)	Pharmacist Prescriber	University of Auckland
Sarah Metcalf	Infectious Diseases Physician	Te Whatu Ora Waitaha
Mark Thomas	Infectious Diseases Physician	University of Auckland
Emma Best	Paediatric Infectious Diseases Physician	University of Auckland
Stephen Chambers	Infectious Diseases Physician	University of Otago
Tom Hills	Infectious Diseases Physician	Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau
Alesha Smith	Data analyst	University of Otago
Gigi Lim	Registered Nurse	University of Auckland
Max Bloomfield	Clinical Microbiologist and Infectious Diseases Physician	Te Whatu Ora Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley