

INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

Introduction:

- An infection is caused by microbial contamination, infections caused by micro-organisms have threatened human life since time immemorial.
- During the pre-antibiotic era, these have been a major concern for the high morbidity and mortality in humans.
- With the discovery of the first antibiotic the magic bullet - "Penicillin"
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 - the patient could be effectively cured of many life threatening infections
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 - this gave a huge relief to the medical practitioners
- Now-a-days antibiotics are the most widely prescribed forms of drug therapy in
- However, many a times antibiotics which are prescribed are not appropriate, this inappropriate use of antibiotics leads to resistant strains of organisms
- Emergence of antimicrobial resistance in pathogens has become a matter of great public health concern.
- Hence hospital constitutes infection control committee for monitoring program policies, its implementation and recommend corrective actions against antimicrobial resistance.

Objectives:

- To understand the cause of nosocomial (Infection originating from hospitals) infection and basic infection control concept.
- To provide basic instructions to hospital staff to control the infection
- To provide a way in selection of established and rational methods to control the infections.

Composition of Infection Control Committee

- A chairperson: Hospital Director
- A chief infection control team - Microbiology Department
- Chief of all clinical Departments
- A chief Nurse
- Head of maintenance and cleaning Department
- Director of central sterile supply Department

Principle Responsibilities of Infection Control Committee

While designing infection control policy, the hospital must consider following responsibilities.

1. Development of written standards for hospital sanitation.
2. Promote the procedures and techniques of sanitation for meeting the written standards
3. Develop the procedure for routine surveillance and review of sanitation.
4. To prevent antimicrobial resistance of antibiotics.

Selection of Antimicrobials:

- i. Appropriate investigation in all suspected infections as recommended.
- ii. Use of most effective, least toxic and least expensive antibiotics for the precise duration of time needed to cure or prevent infection.
- iii. Antibiotics should be used only for acceptable indications as viral and self-limiting autoimmune diseases cannot be cured with the help of antibiotics.
- iv. Prophylactic use of antibiotics should be restricted to only those situations where been shown to be effective. For eg. Use in preoperative situations.
- v. Oral antibiotic therapy should be used in preference to parenteral antibiotic therapy wherever clinically possible.
- vi. Reserve new and/or highly potent antibiotics for situations where serious infections are unlikely to respond to conventional agents.

Role of Pharmacist in Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance is a natural process. It occurs when micro-organisms evolve to be able to resist the drug that has been used to fight them.

Hospital pharmacists have a key role in avoiding misuse of antibiotics to prevent antimicrobial resistance.

1. Infection prevention and control is an essential strategy to reduce infection and the subsequent increased use of antimicrobials.

- ii Immunization is an important part of any infection control strategy. It helps to reduce the misuse of antimicrobials.
 - iii Advise the hospitals about the selection and use of appropriate antibiotics and sterility.
 - iv Arrange the review program for accessing and improving the quality of antimicrobial therapy.
 - v Quantitative data on antimicrobial drug use should be routinely generated and used.
 - vi offer an effective medication therapy management.
 - vii Counseling on consumption of medicines and also engage patients in their appropriate, efficacious, safe and responsible use.
 - viii consulting and collaborating with physicians to ensure optimal and responsible use of antibiotics.
- Thus, participating in such activities pharmacists, helps to reduce the antimicrobial resistance