



# PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GHANA (PSGH)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS | P. O. BOX GP 2133, ACCRA - GHANA.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**2025 WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AWARENESS WEEK (WAAW)**

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

**18th – 24th November 2025**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) joins the global health community to commemorate the 2025 World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW), observed from Tuesday, 18th November to Monday, 24th November 2025. This year's theme, **"Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future,"** is a call to urgent collective action to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobials and ensure a healthier future for all.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder or impossible to treat. The consequences are devastating: prolonged illness, increased healthcare costs, disability, and death. AMR threatens modern medicine and endangers essential procedures such as surgeries, cancer therapy, childbirth, and management of chronic illnesses.

In 2015, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Action Plan on AMR, emphasizing the need for improved awareness, stronger stewardship, responsible use of antimicrobials, and coordinated global action. WAAW provides a vital platform to remind governments, health professionals, the agriculture sector, policymakers, and the general public of their shared responsibility in combating AMR.

## **PSGH's Commitment and Contribution**

As the umbrella body of pharmacists in Ghana, the PSGH has consistently championed public education, antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), and advocacy efforts across the nation. Through its regional branches, practice groups, and collaborative partnerships, the PSGH continues to support initiatives aimed at reducing the emergence and spread of AMR.

In 2018-2019, the PSGH played a pivotal role in securing Ghana's participation in the first Commonwealth Partnership for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS), implemented by THET and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA). This initiative has since expanded, training numerous pharmacists and healthcare professionals as AMR Stewards, Champions and Fellows and strengthening AMS systems in health facilities nationwide.

As medicine experts, pharmacists remain committed to educating the public on responsible antibiotic use and supporting healthcare teams to ensure safe and effective antimicrobial therapy.

## **KEY MESSAGES TO COMMEMORATE 2025 WAAW**

### **1. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE BEFORE TAKING ANY MEDICINE, INCLUDING ANTIBIOTICS**

Antibiotic resistance is also rising in animals. Since many antibiotics used in animals are similar or identical to those used in humans, misuse in animal health accelerates resistance and threatens both human health and food security. Antibiotics must be treated as a **precious, limited resource**. They should only be used when prescribed by qualified healthcare or veterinary professionals.

### **2. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

Government, regulators, and implementing agencies must intensify enforcement of policies and guidelines relating to antimicrobial use, infection prevention, and regulation of pharmaceuticals.

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**MOTTO: AMICUS HUMANI GENERIS**



Healthcare professionals must strictly follow prescribing, dispensing, and treatment protocols to curb misuse and overuse of antimicrobials.

### **3. IMPLEMENT ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMMES IN ALL HEALTH FACILITIES**

Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) must be recognized as a shared responsibility across ministries, agencies, hospitals, departments, and professional groups. Leadership at all levels must champion AMS implementation to safeguard treatment effectiveness.

### **4. RESPONSIBLE MEDICINES USE IN AGRICULTURE**

Veterinary professionals must ensure appropriate use of medicines in animal health, consistent with approved protocols. Continuous education for farmers and agricultural workers is essential to reduce misuse of antimicrobials in farming and aquaculture.

### **GENERAL ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The PSGH urges the public to take practical steps to reduce AMR:

- Allow health professionals to determine the need for antibiotics.
- Think twice and seek professional advice before taking any medicine, particularly antibiotics.
- Misuse, overuse, and abuse of antibiotics put everyone at risk.
- Taking antibiotics when they are not needed accelerates resistance.
- AMR affects people of all ages, in every country.
- Resistant infections lead to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs, severe illness, and more deaths.
- Limit close contact with others when sick.
- Vaccination prevents infections and slows the spread of resistance.
- Practise safe sex to reduce sexually transmitted infections.
- Wash hands regularly and maintain good sanitation.
- Handle, prepare, and store food hygienically.

### **CONCLUSION**

As we observe WAAW 2025, the PSGH calls on Ghanaians to join the global effort to preserve the power of life-saving antimicrobials. **Together, we must act now to protect our present and secure our future.**



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