

**One Health Antibiotic Stewardship in Society (OASIS) project
Improving quality of healthcare and antibiotic use in the human and
animal health sectors**

EXPERT COMMITTEE

**FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRIAGE PROTOCOLS FOR COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS FOR OPTIMISING ANTIBIOTIC USE**

Terms of Reference

November 2021 – February 2022

Background

The OASIS project is a research collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), the Public Health Foundation of India in Gurugram (India), Institute of Development Studies in Brighton (UK), Royal Veterinary College in London (UK) and the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences in Kolkata (India). The main aims of the study are to engage with multiple stakeholders and co-design and implement (on a small scale) an intervention to operationalise antibiotic stewardship for human and livestock health in rural community settings in India. The intervention design draws on formative research conducted with rural households, informal and formal primary care providers, veterinarians and paravets, health and regulatory department stakeholders, and stakeholders in pharmaceutical value chains in rural West Bengal. This was supplemented by an online pan-India survey of primary care physicians, non-physician (informal) providers, vets and paravets on their SARS-CoV-2-related practices, including use of antibiotics. The project duration is from February 2018 – March 2022.

Since January 2021, the project team has held extensive consultations with groups of medical, veterinary, pharmaceutical and high-level government stakeholders. All groups have strongly recommended four clear areas for interventions. These include tierwise guidelines¹ for antibiotic use in human and livestock health starting with para-professionals (these do not exist currently), continuing training and orientation (ideally digital) about antibiotics for all supply chain actors and communities, prescription audits for professionals and a code of conduct for pharmaceutical industry stakeholders.

Moving forward with these recommendations, we are now constituting an Expert Committee to work with the project team on developing a set of guidelines focusing especially at the

¹ Following WHO's AWARE classification of antibiotics into ACCESS, WATCH and RESERVE categories

primary level of the health care system for human and livestock health. This document describes the terms of reference for the Expert Committee Sub-Group on Human Health.

Objective for setting up an Expert Committee:

To **co- develop** antibiotic empirical therapy guidelines based on WHO's ACCESS, WATCH and RESERVE classification, for para-professional health cadres and their supervising primary care physicians and veterinarians.

Para-professional health cadres are informally trained primary level para-practitioners and paravets. Their supervisors/mentors include public and private sector professional medical doctors and veterinarians who are their trainers, lifelong mentors and regular referral providers.

Role of the Expert Committee:

The Expert Committee's role is to review existing national/international guidelines for use of antibiotics to treat human and animals and to **develop a set of draft guidelines for local use of antibiotics at the primary care level that would be shared with the project's State-level partners**. (While drafting guidelines it is important to keep in mind the pluralistic nature of the Indian health and veterinary care system and its broad sub-divisions into primary, secondary and tertiary tiers). The guideline will particularly take into consideration India's unique health system interface formed by relationships between formal and informal service providers that can be harnessed for accessible, good quality and seamless healthcare.

Committee members will review existing evidence including available epidemiological and AMR surveillance data, existing guidelines and antibiotic classifications, and common primary care conditions and meet 3-4 times (virtually) to develop the required guidelines.

A team of research staff from the OASIS project will compile materials for the committee to review, coordinate meetings, take notes and provide general support to enable the Committee to meet its objectives during the given time frame. A field visit will be organised for interested Committee members to meet with primary care para-practitioners and paravets to understand their service provision needs and their clientele, in order to conceptualise antibiotic guidelines for that level.

Specific tasks for Committee members:

1. Review available guidelines for antibiotic use including:
 - (a) national guidelines developed by ICMR, NCDC and any other state level bodies
 - (b) international guidelines by CDC, WHO and NICE guidelines
 - (c) international and national guidelines for managing primary care. Identify the gaps present in the existing guidelines for therapeutic antibiotic use in human and animals at the primary level by para health-cadres.
2. Review WHO's classification system for antibiotics (ACCESS/WATCH and RESERVE) as well as the Indian Schedules H and H1 (H1 contains the more restricted antibiotics). Identify the key ACCESS antibiotics that can be used by para-practitioners, community pharmacists and paravets and those that can be dispensed under the supervision of their clinical mentors.
3. Review any shared epidemiological data on disease burdens and antibiotic resistance patterns pertaining to the states of Haryana and West Bengal.
4. Draft a set of guidelines for the commonly presenting clinical signs and symptoms in humans and in livestock at the primary level and step by step details of their therapeutic management, including empirical antibiotic therapy where indicated.
5. Contribute (if willing and interested) to study outputs like policy briefs and journal articles.

Responsibilities of the Expert Committee:

Individual Advisory Committee members are not directly responsible for managing project activities but will participate proactively in development of the antibiotic use guidelines for human and animal health sector. They will be provided research support and logistics support from the OASIS project.

Individually, Expert Committee members should have/ be willing to develop:

- Critical understanding of the existing antibiotic use guidelines
- Understanding about the infectious diseases of human/animals prevalent locally
- Knowledge about local clinical practices in human/animal health sectors
- Be genuinely interested in the study and its outcomes

Meetings:

The Advisory Committee will meet once or twice in a month between November 2021 and February 2022. Meetings will most likely be virtual and last for around 60-90 minutes.

The study investigators will develop an agenda in consultation with the Committee Chair, which will be circulated a week in advance along with a brief status (action taken) report of earlier resolutions. The decisions and action points will be circulated within a week of the meeting.

Chair:

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma - Professor, Department of Neuropsychopharmacology, Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi, India. Honorary President, Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs (DSPRUD)

Members:

1. Dr. Arvind Taneja - Senior Consultant- Pediatrics, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, New Delhi
2. Dr. Yogesh Jain - Public health physician, Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS), People's health support group, Chhattisgarh
3. Dr. Narender Saini - Ex-General Secretary, Indian Medical Association (IMA)
4. Dr. Abdul Ghafur - Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital, Chennai
5. Dr. Atul Nasa - Drugs Control Officer, Government of Delhi