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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services

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Subject: Mandatory practice to write indication while prescribing anti-microbials

Dear All *Colleagues = Friends.*

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top global public health threats facing humanity. It is estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and 4.95 million deaths were associated with drug resistant infections. AMR puts many of the gains of modern medicine at risk. It threatens the effective prevention and treatment of infections caused by resistant microbes, resulting in prolonged illness and greater risk of death. Treatment failures also lead to longer periods of infectivity and prohibitive high cost of the second-line drugs may result in failure to treat these diseases in many individuals.

Misuse and overuse of anti-microbials is one of the main drivers in the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens. With few new antibiotics in the Research & Development pipeline, prudent antibiotic use is the only option to delay the development of resistance.

The medical colleges not just provide tertiary health care in the country but also are hubs for education of the younger generation of doctors. This makes it important that the doctors at medical colleges set example of judicious use of anti-microbials for the next generation of doctors who will face this crisis in a much more severe form.

While pharmacists are being reminded to implement the schedule H and HH of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules and sell antibiotics only on valid prescriptions, it is important that doctors mention exact indication on their prescriptions while prescribing antimicrobials.

It is an urgent appeal to all doctors in medical colleges to mandatorily mention exact indication/reason/justification while prescribing antimicrobials.

Looking forward to your support to promote judicious use of antimicrobials to reduce emergence of AMR.

With warm regards & *best wishes for a healthy new year.*

Yours truly,
Atul Goel
(Atul Goel)

To,

All doctors of medical colleges in India