

Educational Resource Review: MSD's the Steward—Episode 10—AMS in Africa

Educational Resource Review

- Anticipated duration:** Short <4 h
- Accreditation/Certificate:** No
- Language:** English
- Reusable/Download:** Yes
- Access:** Free
- Resource type:** Webinars, video, online lectures (including PowerPoint), podcasts, animation video, maps, photos
- Source of resource:** Industry
- Focus of topic/resource:** AMS principles/practice; Implementation/behaviour change
- Target audience:** Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses/Midwives, Non-medical managers, Public health, Laboratory, Public, Infection prevention practitioners, Other
- Relevance/Applicability:** LI, LMIC, HMI, HIC
- Setting of resource:** Service: Others

LI, low-income countries; LMIC, low- and middle-income countries; HMI, high- and middle-income countries; HIC, high-income countries.

Resource web link: https://youtu.be/kopNeJ_7gio (Full classification scheme available at: <http://bsac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Educational-resource-review-classification-scheme.pdf>).

WHO region and country (World Bank): European Region, UK (HIC).

Peer review commentary

This podcast gives us a good overview of challenges in antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in Africa and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on AMS activities.

One strength was that it includes clinicians from Kenya and South Africa who have experience in this area. It also includes a UK-based clinician who has experience of working in Africa and working in and leading on partnership projects between the UK and African countries.

Listening to clinicians who currently work in Africa and who also have years of experience increases the credibility of this podcast. It would be great to hear about infection prevention control (IPC) from colleagues working in Africa as their work dovetails with AMS work.

It is an interesting and informative podcast. All three clinicians mention the challenges that they face, but also tools that they've used or are planning to use to overcome these challenges—tools that can be adapted to different settings depending on resources. For example, using health psychologists to implement sustainable behaviour changes, using legislation to limit availability of antimicrobials without a prescription, healthcare worker education and training, using local resistance data to generate prescribing guidelines and educating schoolchildren.

They all discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on AMS. AMS and IPC activities were severely disrupted as clinicians were redeployed to other areas. Some good news stories during the pandemic were that in one hospital in Zambia they had already put systems in place to manufacture alcohol hand rub—during the pandemic they were able to scale up production to try and meet demands. In Kenya, improved hand hygiene and mask wearing has had a positive impact on reducing viral infections.

This podcast will be of interest to a wide range of colleagues working all over Africa who are interested in sharing best practice and in incorporating stewardship activities across several disciplines.