# Electronic information systems for One Health surveillance of antimicrobial resistance: a systematic scoping review

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#### ABSTRACT

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Madalene Oberin; madalene.oberin@ausvet. com.au **Introduction** Electronic information systems (EIS) that implement a 'One Health' approach by integrating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data across the human, animal and environmental health sectors, have been identified as a global priority. However, evidence on the availability, technical capacities and effectiveness of such EIS is scarce.

**Methods** Through a qualitative synthesis of evidence, this systematic scoping review aims to: identify EIS for AMR surveillance that operate across human, animal and environmental health sectors; describe their technical characteristics and capabilities; and assess whether there is evidence for the effectiveness of the various EIS for AMR surveillance. Studies and reports between 1 January 2000 and 21 July 2021 from peer-reviewed and grey literature in the English language were included.

**Results** 26 studies and reports were included in the final review, of which 27 EIS were described. None of the EIS integrated AMR data in a One Health approach across all three sectors. While there was a lack of evidence of thorough evaluations of the effectiveness of the identified EIS, several surveillance system effectiveness indicators were reported for most EIS. Standardised reporting of the effectiveness of EIS is recommended for future publications. The capabilities of the EIS varied in their technical design features, in terms of usability, data display tools and desired outputs. EIS that included interactive features, and geospatial maps are increasingly relevant for future trends in AMR data analytics.

**Conclusion** No EIS for AMR surveillance was identified that was designed to integrate a broad range of AMR data from humans, animals and the environment, representing a major gap in global efforts to implement One Health approaches to address AMR.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Electronic information systems (EIS) that aim to capture, analyse and report data about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in people, animals and the environment are central to the global response to AMR.<sup>1</sup> International efforts to standardise the collection, analysis, interpretation and sharing of AMR data have been led by the WHO through the Global

# **Key questions**

#### What is already known?

- There are numerous global health initiatives aimed to reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) prevalence, which encourage implementation of a One Health approach to tackle AMR across the human, animal and environmental health sectors.
- There is limited description and evaluation of electronic information systems (EIS) designed to support One Health surveillance of AMR, especially in lowincome and middle-income countries where the risks posed by AMR are substantial.

#### What are the new findings?

- There are no published studies which report comprehensive EIS for AMR surveillance incorporating the entire One Health approach (human, animal and the environmental health sectors).
- ► There has been limited evaluation of how existing EIS support AMR surveillance.

#### What do the new findings imply?

- The development of an EIS which incorporates a One Health approach to AMR surveillance and data remains an important goal that is yet to be achieved.
- Existing EIS for AMR surveillance should be evaluated to determine their effectiveness and potential areas for improvement.

Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP) and the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS).<sup>2</sup> Given the spread of resistant bacteria and genes among people, animals, food and the environment, there is global consensus that a collaborative 'One Health' approach should be adopted to respond to AMR.<sup>3</sup>

In 2017, the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) published guidelines for applying a One Health approach to AMR surveillance.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), has developed the

'AMR Tripartite Workplan' in 2019. This plan aims to limit the emergence of AMR by supporting countries to implement a multisectoral One Health approach to AMR through their National Action Plans (NAPs) on AMR.<sup>5</sup>

These initiatives rely on good quality AMR data from humans, animals and the environment to enable integrated surveillance nationally and globally. However, of the 136 countries reporting to the Global Database for the Tripartite Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-assessment Survey (TrACSS) in 2019–2020, only 32 (24%) countries include integrated multisectoral AMR surveillance in their NAPs.<sup>6</sup> Reasons for not having integrated multisectoral surveillance in NAPs may include limited resources, training, knowledge of AMR monitoring initiatives, slow progression of implementation and reduced political authority or willingness to implement strategies.<sup>7–10</sup>

EIS that support AMR surveillance includes a range of online and mobile application-based tools that capture, manage, analyse and report AMR data. These EIS are usually multifaceted and can include a laboratory information management system (LIMS) component to exchange clinical, microbiological, pharmacological and administrative data between laboratories.<sup>11</sup> For example, 'WHONET', developed by WHO in 1989, is a freely available LIMS that manages microbiology laboratory data and monitors antimicrobial susceptibility in the human health sector.<sup>12</sup> WHONET is currently used by 130 countries to strengthen their overall AMR surveillance system. However, WHONET is not designed to capture antimicrobial use (AMU) or antimicrobial consumption (AMC) data at the population level. Indeed, for people and animals, AMU and AMC data is predominantly collated in MS Excel spreadsheet templates and submitted to GLASS, WHO or OIE for international reporting.<sup>13–15</sup> In addition to these limitations, WHONET is not designed to integrate AMR data from the animal and environmental health sectors, though adaptation for animal health is planned.<sup>16</sup>

A systematic review from 2017 examining infectious disease surveillance systems identified a limited number of EIS for AMR.<sup>17</sup> Importantly, the study highlighted the lack of information systems operating in low-income and middleincome countries (LMICs) where they are most needed because of the high burden of AMR in their populations.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, the study objectives for the systematic review by Rattanaumpawan *et al*<sup>17</sup> were limited to the evaluation of EIS in the human health sector only, and EIS with a One Health approach (ie, incorporating human, animal and environmental health data) were not included. Since 2015, many global AMR initiatives have emerged, including the GAP, GLASS, the AMR Tripartite Workplan, AGISAR integrated AMR surveillance guidelines and TrACSS. These initiatives have increased the demand for EIS tailored to One Health AMR data. To the authors knowledge, no recently published study of such EIS exists, leaving the current global landscape of EIS for integrated AMR surveillance in humans, animals and the environment uncharted.

Our scoping review aims to address this gap. Specifically, we aim to (1) identify EIS that collect, integrate and analyse AMR surveillance data across all health sectors (ie, human, animal and the environment) that have been designed, piloted and/or implemented in the past 5 years, (2) describe the technical characteristics and capabilities of the identified EIS, (3) establish whether an evaluation of the effectiveness of the identified EIS has been conducted, consistent with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and (4) provide recommendations for the future development of EIS to facilitate AMR data sharing and integration across sectors.

#### **METHODS**

This study was designed as a systematic scoping review with a qualitative synthesis of evidence to identify current knowledge gaps and investigate the literature available using a systematic search process. Conducting and reporting of results were in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR).<sup>19</sup>

#### **Eligibility criteria**

This review defined an EIS for AMR as any online or mobile application-based tool that integrates, manages, analyses and reports on AMR data. For this review, data on AMU or AMC were considered 'AMR data'. An EIS for AMR surveillance could be part of a local, regional, national or international surveillance system. We included studies and technical reports published in the English language between 1 January 2000 and 21 July 2021 that described any form of an EIS that was (1) currently operational, being piloted or under investigation, (2) intended to assist with the monitoring or surveillance of AMR and (3) covered at least one of the three health sectors (human, animal or environment). Studies were excluded if they were unrelated to an EIS for AMR data or did not describe the design or implementation of the EIS.

#### Information sources

PubMed Central and Web of Science electronic databases were the primary information source for this review. Grey literature was explored to enhance the electronic database search by scanning the reference list of included articles, and reviewing WHO, FAO and OIE websites related to AMR. Specifically, the NAPs of the countries which are included in the WHO library of NAPs<sup>20</sup> were screened for the key search terms to determine whether there was sufficient description of any EIS for AMR surveillance to meet the eligibility criteria for this review. Google Scholar was used as a secondary database to scan for additional studies using the same search terms as the primary search (table 1).

#### Search

The sources and terms used are denoted in table 1.

#### Selection of sources of evidence

Search results from each source were exported into the Zotero referencing software for the identification, merging

Table 1   Search strategy detailed information					
Source	Search terms	Search dates			
PubMed	("2000/01/01"(Date - Publication): "2021/07/21"(Date - Publication)) AND (surveillance(Title/ Abstract)) AND ((electronic(Title/Abstract)) OR (digital(Title/Abstract)) OR (automated(Title/ Abstract)) OR (real-time(Title/Abstract)) OR (real time(Title/Abstract))) AND (antimicrobial resistan*(Title/Abstract))	1 January 2000 to 21 July 2021			
Web of Science	(AB=(surveillance AND (electronic OR digital OR automated OR real-time OR real time) AND antimicrobial resistan*))	1 January 2000 to 21 July 2021			
Google Scholar	(Antimicrobial resistance surveillance) AND ((electronic) OR (digital) OR (automated) OR (real-time) OR (real time))	1 January 2000 to 21 July 2021			
Grey Literature	The NAPs of countries recorded within the WHO library of national action plans (NAPs) were extracted and assessed to identify any electronic information systems (EIS) or potentially developing EIS that met the inclusion criteria, further described in online supplemental table S4. Other organisations (such as Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Organisation for Animal Health), and the reference list of included studies were also scanned.	2000 to 2021*			

\*The earliest NAP included in this study was published in 2011.

and removal of duplicates. Screening of retrieved titles and abstracts was performed in Zotero by two reviewers independently. Disagreements were resolved by mutual agreement. Full texts were accessed to assess eligibility and decide on inclusion.

#### Data items and charting processes

Data items were extracted and entered in a MS Excel spreadsheet, and the specific domains are described in table 2. For each domain, a variety of data items were extracted. First, the study characteristics were identified by the country economic status in which each EIS was deployed, the phase of development, health sectors involved and the population source used to retrieve the data. Second, for the technical and design characteristics, the usability, interactivity, security, structure and storage capabilities of each EIS were identified. Lastly, the surveillance systems effectiveness evaluation tool referred to as the 'Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Updated Guidelines for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems'<sup>21</sup> was used to identify whether indicators of surveillance system effectiveness were reported for the EIS included in this review. The CDC guidelines describe indicators in terms of relevant attributes such as stability, representativeness, timeliness, simplicity, acceptability, flexibility and data quality, to evaluate surveillance systems, and have previously been applied to evaluate AMR surveillance systems.<sup>22</sup>

### RESULTS

#### Selection of sources of evidence

A total of 547 records were assessed, comprising 466 records from the two primary databases, 3 records from Google Scholar and 78 records from the grey literature (figure 1). After duplicate records were removed (n=158), a total of 389 records were screened, of which 345 were excluded at the title and abstract screening stage or the key terms screening stage in the NAPs, leaving 44 records for full-text screening. Of these, 18 records were excluded because they did not meet the inclusion criteria, leaving 26 studies and reports for inclusion in the review. In relation to the grey literature, five of the eight included studies that had been peer reviewed and the remaining three studies were sourced from government reports.

#### Characteristics of sources of evidence

Twenty-two of the 26 studies and reports described unique EIS for AMR, and 4 studies described implementations of WHONET.<sup>12 23-25</sup> One study included the analysis of 2 EIS,<sup>26</sup>

Table 2         Data collection domains for data extraction and charting							
Domain	Details						
Electronic information system	Description of a type of electronic information system that collects, manages and/or analyses AMR data electronically.						
Technical and design characteristics provided	<ul> <li>Describes how the data is collected/integrated.</li> <li>Description of the software/programme created or used.</li> </ul>						
Indicators of surveillance system effectiveness	Any mention of terms or their synonyms defined as indicators of surveillance system effectiveness, as per the 'CDC Updated Guidelines for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems'. <sup>21</sup>						
Challenges or opportunities involved	<ul> <li>Any mention of issues or limitations of data collection/system operation.</li> <li>Description of any opportunities or future directions for how the system may better address AMR surveillance or response.</li> </ul>						

AMR, antimicrobial resistance; CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Figure 1 Study selection. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses 2020 flowchart for selection of studies and reports in the systematic scoping review. EIS, electronic information systems.

resulting in a total of 27 EIS overall included in this systematic scoping review from 26 studies and reports. Of the 27 EIS, the country of implementation was specified for 21: Uganda,<sup>27</sup> India,<sup>28</sup> Portugal,<sup>29</sup> Italy,<sup>23</sup> Australia,<sup>30–32</sup> Netherlands,<sup>33</sup> Germany,<sup>34</sup> Brazil,<sup>35</sup> UK,<sup>36</sup> USA,<sup>24 37 38</sup>Argentina,<sup>25</sup> Taiwan,<sup>39</sup> France,<sup>26</sup> Russia,<sup>40</sup> Switzerland<sup>41</sup> and Denmark.<sup>42</sup> Three EIS described utilisation across multiple countries,<sup>12 43 44</sup> and three EIS are not specific to a location.<sup>45–47</sup>

## Synthesis of results

# Objective 1: identify EIS that collect, integrate and analyse AMR surveillance data across health sectors (human, animal and the environment)

The EIS were described using various characteristics including (1) the economic status of the country of implementation, (2) the phase of the EIS, (3) the health sectors involved and (4) the population sources from which the data is collected. The characteristics of the 27 EIS evaluated are described in table 3 (additional information on each EIS can be found in online supplemental table S1). The four reports

that use WHONET,<sup>12</sup> <sup>23–25</sup> involved one describing the use solely within a hospital setting,<sup>23</sup> and the other three operated within both hospital and community settings.<sup>12</sup> One of the WHONET systems reported integrated data from public health, veterinary and food laboratories, but did not include the environmental health sector.<sup>12</sup> One EIS did not distinguish between human or hospital settings (unspecified) but collected metagenomic sequencing data, which was described in terms of its public health relevance.<sup>47</sup> None of the 27 EIS evaluated in this review reported the inclusion of AMR data from environmental sources (such as wastewater, agricultural runoff, groundwater, rivers or other sources).<sup>48</sup>

# Objective 2: describe the technical characteristics and capabilities of the identified EIS

The technical characteristics and capabilities of the EIS were assessed on design features including (1) user accessibility and usability, (2) information visualisation and interactivity, (3) database security and confidentiality, (4) database structure and (5) storage. The features of each EIS are described

Table 3         Summary of the EIS characteristics						
<b>EIS</b> characteristics	Number of EIS (n=27) n (%)					
Country economic status*						
Low-income	1 (3.7) <sup>27</sup>					
Low-income and middle-income	1 (3.7) <sup>28</sup>					
Middle-income	2 (7.4) <sup>25 35</sup>					
High-income	17 (63) <sup>23 24 26 29–34 36–38 40–42 49</sup>					
Not specific	6 (22) <sup>12 43-47</sup>					
Total	27					
Phase of EIS						
Operational	22 (81.5) <sup>12 24 26-29 31-37 40-42 44-47 49</sup>					
Piloted	4 (14.8) <sup>23 25 38 43</sup>					
Under construction	1 (3.7) <sup>30</sup>					
Total	27					
Health sector/s						
Human (only)	23 (81) <sup>23-36 38 40 42-44 46 47 49</sup>					
Human and animal	4 (19) <sup>12 37 41 45</sup>					
Environment	0					
Total	27					
Population source <sup>†‡§</sup>						
Human (only)						
Hospital	11 (33.3) <sup>23 26 27 29 34 35 38 43 44 49</sup>					
Hospital and community	11 (42.9) <sup>24 25 28 30-33 36 40 42 46</sup>					
Unspecified	1 (4.8) <sup>47</sup>					
Human and animal						
Hospital and retail meats/slaughter	1 (4.8) <sup>37</sup>					
Hospital, community and veterinary laboratory	3 (14.3) <sup>12 41 45</sup>					
Total	27					

\*Country economic status categorised by the World Bank.69 †Hospital data: AMR data collected from people who have been hospitalised.

‡Community data: Data collected from people who are in the community, such as samples taken or requested by general practitioners, or from outpatients.

SThe population source contains EIS that collect data from humans and animals, which have been broken down into subcategories for clarity.

AMR, antimicrobial resistance; EIS, electronic information systems.

in (table 4, online supplemental table S2 describes the characteristics of each EIS). Some of the EIS lacked sufficient published information to determine all their technical characteristics and capabilities. While usability and accessibility vary across the EIS, all are accessible freely and easily online. Many of the systems require users to create a profile and enter login information to upload and access the data. Additional

Table 4 Evaluation of the	technical design and capabilities of selected EIS		
Technical features*	Description	Observations	teferences
User accessibility and usability	Accessibility ensures equivalence for all users so they can navigate and interact with the EIS. Usability is related to the interaction between people and the EIS interface, and the degree to which the system is effective, efficient and satisfying to use. <sup>70</sup> This includes data import and entry characteristics.	Of the EIS that reported features related to accessibility - and usability, 18 described features that can be considered to meet the criteria of accessibility and usability, where users can either create profiles/logins, access the EIS via a website or are targeted at specific sectors for data upload (ie, health professional or pathology laboratories).	<ul> <li>Permits users to create profiles or a login<sup>12,28,44–46,68</sup>.</li> <li>Directed for specific users<sup>29,31</sup> 22 35 36 42 49 71;</li> <li>No login required<sup>30,37,40,47</sup>;</li> </ul>
Information visualisation and interactivity	Representing data in visual and meaningful ways. Interactivity allows users to manipulate data displays to enhance the experience. Examples include dashboards, geographical maps and charts where time, trends, colours and shapes can be manipulated.	All the EIS evaluated for these features, describe - capacity for visualisation, reporting or interactivity. The data output varied between generation of reports, tables, - graphs, interactive maps/graphs and alert systems.	<ul> <li>All EIS create a form of report or analysis. <sup>35–37</sup> 40 46 6837 40 46</li> <li>Interactivity features <sup>30/35–37</sup> 40 46 68.</li> </ul>
Database security and confidentiality	The range of tools, controls and measures used to protect database confidentiality and integrity from internal and external threats.	A range of security measures was observed, including user protection (password protected, authority requirements), secure connectivity and protocols and security of data reported being de-identified.	<ul> <li>Password protected user accounts<sup>123133342434585</sup></li> <li>Secure connection/protocols in place<sup>2333434686</sup></li> <li>De-identified data<sup>31334045445</sup></li> </ul>
Database structures	Refers to the hardware and software infrastructure used to create and maintain the data.	Few EIS described the database structures. Where described, it included use of R, JavaScript, HTML5 and/ or MySQL.	Specified programming language <sup>45 46</sup> :
Data storage	Storing of data in a storage medium. May be on local servers or in the cloud.	The EIS that described their data storage functionality - included local servers (computer-based) and cloud servers (web-based).	<ul> <li>Web-based (cloud) servers<sup>12,29,45,47</sup>;</li> <li>Local-based servers<sup>14,45</sup>;</li> </ul>

Some publications reviewed lacked specific information on EIS features to be included within this table. Relevant information may be available from other sources that were not identified in this systematic scoping review.

features for users were identified across the EIS, for example, the ResistanceOpen EIS describe features that allow users to set up data elements, data entry forms and reports, as well as being compatible on a variety of devices.<sup>46</sup> The data output and display of all EIS consisted of a form of an analysis report, however additional interactivity was observed in several EIS which allows for various visual representations of the data.<sup>27 30 35-37 40 46 49</sup> For example, HOTSpots and ResistanceOpen allows users to use navigable maps, which indicates the geographical location and saturation of the data at various levels with different intensity and layers.<sup>30 46</sup> The security features of the EIS mostly involve password-protected accounts for users and de-identified data. The backend structure of EIS evaluated describe specific programming language to perform queries and analysis the data to produce the output results. They also involve storing the data within a cloud, web-based server or on a local server, of which both consist of various security and safety properties.

# Objective 3: identify whether indicators of surveillance system effectiveness have been applied to evaluate AMR electronic information systems

The reviewed EIS varied in reporting whether the contribution of the EIS to AMR surveillance system effectiveness had been formally assessed using indicators of surveillance system effectiveness, including stability, representativeness, timeliness, simplicity, acceptability, flexibility, data quality, positive predictive value and sensitivity. Many of the included studies and reports explicitly described at least one indicator, most commonly representativeness, though for most indicators, there were only limited indirect reference to the indicator without clear evidence for whether this indicator had been formally evaluated (table 5). For example, some reports described EIS as 'user friendly', which was considered an indirect reference to the indicator 'simplicity'. Further information is provided in the supplementary materials (online supplemental table S3).

#### DISCUSSION

### Summary of evidence

Our review of currently available EIS for AMR surveillance did not identify any system that adopted a multisectoral One Health approach that integrated data across the human, animal and environmental health sectors. While a limited number of reviewed EIS incorporated human and animal health data, none of the reviewed systems explicitly included AMR in the environment.

Table 5         Extent to which indicators of surveillance system effectiveness were applied to included EIS						
Surveillance system	Observed for the EIS (n=27)					
effectiveness indicators	Definition	Yes*	No†	Indirectly‡		
Stability	Refers to the reliability and availability EIS.	n=2 44 49	n=4 26 31 32	n=21 12 23-25 27-30 33-38 40-43 45-47		
Representativeness	Accurately describes the occurrence of a health-related event (ie, AMR) and its distribution in the population by place and person.	n=12 <sup>23</sup> 27 30 32 34 36 40 43 44 46 47 49	n=1 45	n=14 <sup>12 24-26 28 29 31 33 35</sup> 37 38 41 42		
Timeliness	The timely process of an EIS to present the data once collected.	n=7 <sup>25 27 33 34 42 44 49</sup>	n=4 31 36-38	n=16 <sup>12 23 24 26 28 29 32 33</sup> 35 40 41 43 45-47		
Simplicity	Clear and functionality of the EIS in terms of its structure and ease of operation.	n=3 <sup>34 43 46</sup>	n=6 26 31 32 36 38	n=18 12 23-25 27-30 33 35 37 40-42 44 45 47 49		
Acceptability	Willingness of persons/organisations to participate/contribute data for the EIS.	n=2 <sup>27 43</sup>	n=7 26 30-32 36 38	n=18 <sup>12 23-25 28 29 33-35 37</sup> 40-42 44-47 49		
Flexibility	The ability to adapt to changing information needs or operating conditions with little additional time, personnel or allocated funds.	n=5 <sup>12 34 37 42 49</sup>	n=11 24-26 30-33 36 38 40	n=11 23 27-29 35 41 43-47		
Data quality	Reflects the completeness and validity of the data recorded in the public health surveillance system.	n=6 <sup>12 27 33 43 49</sup>	n=7 24-26 31 32 38	n=14 23 28-30 34-37 40-42 44 45 47		
Positive predictive value	The proportion of clusters or outbreaks detected by the EIS that were confirmed to be clusters or outbreaks after epidemiological investigation.	n=5 <sup>24 26 38 49</sup>	n=22 <sup>12 23 27-37</sup> 40-47	n=0		
Sensitivity	The EIS ability to detect outbreaks, and/or monitor changes in AMR over time.	n=2 <sup>24,39</sup>	n=25 <sup>12 23 25-38</sup> 40-47	n=0		

\*Yes=the study or report described how the EIS had been evaluated for this indicator, or provided substantial description of how this indicator was incorporated.

†No=there was no mention of the indicator, or no evidence of it being explicitly described.

‡Indirectly=there was enough sufficient evidence to infer that the indicator was described, although not enough information to determine whether the indicator was analysed or evaluated.

AMR, antimicrobial resistance; EIS, electronic information systems.

This finding highlights a significant gap in our response to the global threat posed by AMR. The omission of environmental AMR data in EIS is of concern given groups such as the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR have highlighted a critical need to further understand the role of environmental pollution in the emergence and spread of AMR.<sup>50 51</sup>

In this study, the 21 EIS that identified a specific country of implementation, were mostly located in HICs (n=17), with a smaller number implemented in LMICs (n=4). Additionally, two of the six EIS which included a range of countries were found to involve predominantly LMICs (such as Southeast Asian countries),<sup>43 44</sup> demonstrating a slight overall increase in the presence of EIS in LMICs over the past 5 years since a previous review in  $2017^{17}$  of a similar scope. The growing number of EIS being deployed in LMICs in recent years may be due to the heightened awareness at national and global levels about AMR, increased access to digital health technologies in LMICs, availability of international funding initiatives for implementing EIS as components of AMR surveillance or increased demand for AMR data in recent years.<sup>7852</sup> However, the slow progress in the development and adoption of EIS for AMR surveillance in LMICs likely involves many contributory factors, such as being heavily dependent on grants, or awaiting national or international agencies' support.<sup>7</sup>

WHONET appears to be the principal EIS tool used for AMR data in most countries.<sup>12</sup> However, within our systematic search, just four studies described the implementation of WHONET, of which two were implemented in the past 5 years,<sup>12 23</sup> and the other two in the past 11 years.<sup>24 25</sup> Two were pilot studies describing its implementation in Italy and Argentina,<sup>23 25</sup> and one other was operational in Boston (USA),<sup>24</sup> all three were used to compare the EIS to the current operational surveillance networks within the selected hospitals. The fourth study was a descriptive summary of WHONET.<sup>12</sup> Given the longstanding and widespread use of WHONET, this constitutes a clear gap in the documentation of implementation experiences, its added value to countries' health systems and in identifying strengths and weaknesses to improve the system further.

When identifying whether evaluations of the EIS had been conducted using the CDC guidelines of surveillance system effectiveness, we found that majority of the reports did not assess how the EIS contributed to the effectiveness of AMR surveillance overall. Of the 27 EIS, representativeness was described most frequently (n=12), as EIS commonly described the source and target population for the AMR data, and how it related to the occurrence and distribution of AMR. However, the other indicators were typically described or discussed indirectly, rather than an explicit evaluation of how the EIS improved AMR surveillance (table 5). A recent study of AMR surveillance systems<sup>22</sup> highlighted that not all desirable attributes described in the CDC guidelines can necessarily be implemented together in a single system. It was recommended that a priority list of indicators for the most 'effective' AMR surveillance systems be developed.<sup>22</sup> However, for this to be useful, studies and reports on EIS for AMR should provide more data on the contribution of EIS to AMR surveillance system effectiveness overall. The lack of high-quality evaluation data may impede future investment opportunities in developing integrated EIS for AMR surveillance at the national and international levels.

Our grey literature search showed that although many countries did not indicate the deployment of an EIS (or report the existence of an EIS), some countries indicate within their NAPS that they are planning to implement such a system in the future (online supplemental table S4). This is a positive indication that increased attention and resources are being dedicated to improving the availability of AMR data through EIS. In particular, the OIE noted from a 2020 survey that there is a lack of an electronic tool that is available to monitor AMU in animals that can collect and analyse data.<sup>53</sup> Hence, they reported that they are now in the process of developing an interactive automated system to fill this gap in reporting AMU in the animal health sector.

From the NAPs investigated in this review (online supplemental table S4), it was evident that there is a lack of information about existing EIS. For example, little reference was made to EIS in the NAPs of Japan or Sweden even though these countries have established EIS.<sup>54 55</sup> While overall, we found limited evidence of integrated EIS, some national surveillance programmes such as NORM-VET, EARS-VET, DANMAP, CIPARS and RESAPTH include AMR data from both humans and animals,<sup>56–60</sup> indicating features of a One Health approach. Evidently, the various EIS described within this review retrieved from the published and grey literature records provides an overview of what is currently available or being developed for AMR. However, it was challenging to find reliable information to guide further developments or identify the characteristics of these EIS as not all countries share this information publicly.

While we found a paucity of publicly available information on private or government sponsored EIS for AMR and AMU data, it is not inferred that data collection tools do not exist in the human and animal sectors, particularly in high-income countries. For example, Varona *et al* report on several databases used to managed AMR and AMU data in six European countries.<sup>61</sup> Problems were identified with a lack of harmonisation and standardisation in data types and reporting within and across sectors. Further, few of the databases were considered capable of a truly One Health approach to AMR and AMU surveillance.<sup>61</sup> One EIS of interest, the Electronic Communication of Surveillance in Scotland, was found to have insufficient publicly available information to include in this review.<sup>61</sup>

#### Recommendations

A possible strategy to overcome the gap in knowledge on the performance of EIS is to develop a set of standardised requirements to be reported within published papers describing the development, implementation and evaluation of EIS. These guidelines would be similar to those published for the reporting of other scientific studies, such as 'PRISMA' for reporting systematic reviews, or Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines for the reporting of observational studies, and the Equator Network which strives for enhancing the quality and transparency of health research.<sup>62–64</sup> Additionally, reporting on EIS in GLASS, TrACSS or OIE surveys may also help to provide muchneeded information on the existence and performance of EIS for AMR surveillance at national level.

Several evaluation tools exist for the surveillance of AMU and AMR in addition to the CDC guidelines discussed in this review, such as 'ATLASS: the Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems', and 'ISSEP: Integrated Surveillance System Evaluation Project'.<sup>65</sup> We recommend such platforms become more standardised in terms of the attributes described, and to be additionally integrated into the rollout of WHONET and other EIS to improve the performance assessments of these systems in the future. There is an opportunity for an EIS to be developed like the universal applicability of WHONET, which also incorporates a wider range of AMR data by capturing AMU and AMC data, as well as enabling a One Health approach by integrating data from human, animal and environmental health sectors. A system with an interactive, responsive feed of real-time AMR data targeted for all stakeholders from all sectors would be valuable for national and global AMR responses.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated technological trends occurring in EIS and highlighted the critical role of data analytics in public health.<sup>66</sup> Accessibility, usability and collaboration are critical to achieving EIS data integration across multiple health sectors. Among the digital technologies predicted in the short-term to medium-term, the greatest disrupters are considered to be automation, artificial intelligence and 5G connectivity.<sup>66 67</sup> EIS need to be designed with flexibility and scalability to accommodate these and other emerging trends in the future. The EIS examined in this study all demonstrated an aspect of recording and reporting AMR data, however the EIS that incorporated additional features such as being able to function offline,<sup>27 44</sup> incorporate interactivity, processing real-time results and geospatial mapping features may be considered more aligned with future innovations,  $^{30\,35-37\,40\,46\,68}$  and therefore being more effective than those that lack those characteristics. The rapid pace of technological advancements demands EIS that are flexible and responsive to digital disruption. Therefore, EIS with the capacity to upscale and adapt to new technologies are needed to remain relevant for AMR surveillance. For example, cloud based servers are increasingly popular due to their efficiency in providing

readily available and scalable solutions and cost efficiencies compared with on-site, local servers with large data centres requiring additional overhead costs and problems in recovering lost data.<sup>67</sup> The EIS that describe deployment on local servers may consider adapting or updating their database to align with digital advances. Additionally, to incorporate a One Health approach, many of the EIS evaluated in this review may need to adapt to meet the global desire to integrate data across human and animal health, and the environment.

There is a distinct lack of publicly available information regarding EIS developments; the Tripartite or similar initiative should consider establishing a global repository of EIS for AMR. Governments, international organisations or the private sector could submit a brief description of the status and planned developments of an EIS to ensure there is information available, and to more easily identify or evaluate the effectiveness of the various information systems and data management practices being used.

#### Limitations

Methodological limitations of this review include that we did not search for pre-print literature, thereby potentially missing very recent information. Second, we only searched among literature in English language. Third, our search strategy for grey literature did not follow a traditional systematic approach. Instead, the WHO library of NAPs<sup>20</sup> was the main grey literature resource, as well as the reference lists of studies, and other relevant government and health organisation resources were reviewed selectively based on prior knowledge among the researchers. This may have resulted in some publication bias in the results reported in this review, where not all EIS currently in use were able to be evaluated. Further, it was challenging to properly assess whether indicators of surveillance system effectiveness had been applied, as most studies did not provide sufficient detail on the technical capabilities or user features or critique the performance of the systems. We recommend that information related to the design and overall effectiveness of EIS for AMR surveillance be broadly shared to encourage the collaborative development of systems that integrate multisectoral data.

Surveillance of environmental AMR is not well established in many countries. Therefore, true integration of One Health data across all sectors (human, animals and the environment) is not yet possible in many countries. While the EIS included in this study do not incorporate environmental AMR data, some systems may be able to accommodate this data (eg, WHONET). Certainly, in the future, EIS for integrated One Health data should be designed to accommodate AMR data from all sectors.

#### CONCLUSION

This scoping review maps the current landscape of EIS for AMR surveillance. There remains a clear need for EIS that truly implement a One Health approach to capture the contribution of all health sectors towards the emergence of

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AMR. The gaps identified in this review provide important guidance to improve current and develop future systems. Additionally, for countries, organisations or researchers planning and developing an EIS for AMR, or aiming to strengthen current systems, this review highlights the importance of researching and/or evaluating how EIS strengthens AMR surveillance systems overall.

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