

The AKUHN¹ AMS COE – A new dawn in improving laboratory capacity and diagnostic practice in Kenya

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BACKGROUND

Previous studies including point-prevalence surveys^{1,2} have identified many key causes of AMR in Kenya among them lack of laboratory capacity, healthcare worker knowledge and prolonged surgical prophylaxis.

OBJECTIVE

Using AKUHN as a reference COE to improve healthcare worker knowledge, capacity and practice on appropriate microbiological diagnosis to improve patient outcomes and fight AMR.

METHODS

- A knowledge sharing workshop on surgical site infections (SSIs) was conducted in Sept 2023 to drive better understanding of diagnosis (particularly diagnostic procedures) and management of SSIs
- A training of laboratory staff on diagnostic skills was executed in March 2024 covering:
 - Microbiology foundational concepts
 - Isolation and Culturing with focus on isolation of pure cultures
 - Biochemical tests – Perform and analyze biochemical tests to identify microorganisms.
 - Antimicrobial Susceptibility testing



RESULTS

- >70 attendees from >10 large healthcare facilities participated in the SSIs workshop in Sept 2023 with focus on:
 - National & institutional burden of SSIs
 - appropriate selection, collection & transportation of wound samples
 - Diagnostic interpretation of wound cultures
- >50 laboratory technologists trained over 2 days in March 2024
 - Standardization of API & E-test diagnostic procedures
 - To encourage 15 labs that previously had no in-house microbiology testing to initiate basic testing.
- A National Updates in Microbiology Conference involving 22 healthcare facilities was organized from 26th to 28th March with >130 attendees

DISCUSSION

- Insights from the SSI workshop informed the need for Microbiology capacity building of the laboratory technologists across the country to standardize diagnostic practice and reporting.
- Attendees for all the activities were selected from AMS committees of key institutions that will form part of COE Hub & Spoke activities in 2024

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

- To formalize laboratory capacity trainings, there is a plan to institute a fully fledged Microbiology Academy under AKUHN supported by BioMérieux Kenya to train on best practices in microbiology diagnostics.
- A clinical study entitled "Improving Antimicrobial Surveillance and Stewardship in Kenya" that encompasses 5 key AMS-related objectives is currently under review and will be launched by Q3 2024 to enable gather prospective data on AMR burden and AMS practices across the country.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

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