**ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS IN INDIA –REQUIREMENTS AND REALITY**

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**Abstract**

Antibiotics have been one of the boons of the medical research. Over exploitation of this boon might lead to severe issues in the future. The World Health Assembly’s endorsement of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in May 2015, and the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on AMR in September 2017, both recognize AMR as a global threat to public health. Problem of antibiotic resistance has now been observed in hospitals and communities.Government of India took some vital steps to impede the issue of antimicrobial resistance. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research has released treatment guidelines for infectious diseases, however as the guidelines were only published in 2017 (with the antimicrobial sensitivity data of 2014), a lack of spread of this knowledge exists. An updated version of these guidelines was published in 2019. Another step taken by Government of India was replacing antibiotics from OTC to Schedule H1. According to WHO, the most important step that should be taken to impede the problem of AMR is to establish Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (AMSP) in each and every hospital. In 2018 ICMR published AMSP Guidelines for implementation in hospitals.This review presents a detailed discussion on antimicrobial stewardship programs in India. Requirement, strategies and infrastructure which are necessary for implementing and continuing stewardship programs has been discussed. Moreover, status of India in light of stewardship programs and the key points from countries which have successfully implemented this program has also been talked about.

**Keywords:** Antimicrobials, Antimicrobial resistance, Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs