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Press Release: Aide Memoire between the Ministry of Health with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other development partners in Vietnam on the combating of drug resistance in Vietnam

Hanoi, June 24, 2015

On 24th June, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the development partners are here to jointly written agreement signed between the Ministry of Health , the Ministries / agencies with the development partners in Vietnam on the combating of drug resistance. This activity is important and practical to more strongly promote the fight against drug resistance in Vietnam.

The conference was attended by leaders of concerned four ministries, departments, bureaus, representatives of international organizations as WHO, FAO, USAID, CDC, OUCRU, JICA ... and some countries embassy in Vietnam as the Embassy of USA, UK, Netherlands, Japan ... with leading experts in the field of medicine, agriculture.

Speaking at the ceremony, the MOH's leadership said: "Currently, in the disease model of multiple countries including Vietnam, the rate of infection is still high, continued to rise and evolve complexly, hence the use of antibiotics are urgently needed to treat patients. But the use of inappropriate antibiotics, overuse of antibiotics, using antibiotic while not be infectious diseases, etc. have increased drug resistance of pathogenic bacteria, creating scarcity, shortage of new antimicrobial drugs, especially drugs to treat patients infected with multidrug-resistant microorganisms; therefore the social costs and financing in the treatment of drug-resistant infectious diseases put considerable burden on individuals, families and society by extending the duration of treatment, prognosis, high risk of death "

According to data reported by 15 hospitals under the Ministry, the provincial general hospital in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Hue, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh, ... relative to the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance period 2008-2009 showed that 30-70% of gram-negative bacteria resistant to cephalosporins of 3rd generation and 4th generation, nearly 40-60% resistant to aminoglycosides and fluoroquinolones in 2009. The sensitivity to imipenem of nearly 40% of *Acinetobacter* strains decreased.

Using antibiotics average is 274.7 DDD / 100 day-bed. This percentage is significantly higher compared with the Netherlands report at the same period was 58.1 DDD / 100 day-bed and reports from 139 hospitals of 30 European countries in 2001 was 49.6 DDD / 100 day-bed.

The correlation between the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance is evident when the ratio of gram-negative bacteria resistant to cephalosporins of 4th generation is high in places with greater consumption of antibiotics.

According to result "Study the situation of antibiotic usage in hospital-acquired infections in the intensive care unit in some health facilities" shows four strains most isolated are *Acinetobacter spp.*, *Pseudomonas spp.*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella spp.* Frequency of marked dominant proportion (> 50%) in nosocomial pneumonia patients (using or not using ventilator) with *Acinetobacter spp.* or *Pseudomonas spp.* is dominant. These 4 strains are multidrug-resistant bacteria. A special high resistance is detected in cephalosporin of 3rd and 4th generations (66-83%), followed by the group of aminosid and fluoroquinolone with resistance ratio over 60%.

The high resistance is also reflected in the use of antibiotics in the initial empirical results inconsistent with antibiotic regimen 74%.

On the World Health Day 2011, World Health Organization took the slogan "No action today, no cure tomorrow" to call on all countries work together to prevent drug resistance.

Vietnam has responded to this call and to build a national action plan to combat drug resistance from 2013 to 2020 (Decision No. 2174 / QD-BYT dated 06/21/2013), with the objective of promoting the prevention and control of drug resistance, improving the quality and effectiveness of prevention and control of epidemics and medical examination and treatment to protect, care for and improve people's health.

The general objective of the Plan is to: "Promote the prevention and control of drug resistance, improving the quality and effectiveness of prevention and control of epidemics and medical examination and treatment to protect, care for and improve people's health":

1. Raise awareness of community and health workers on drug resistance.
2. Strengthen, improving national surveillance system on the use of antibiotic and drug resistance
3. Ensuring adequate supply of quality medicines to meet the needs of people.
4. Promote proper safe use of drugs
5. Promote infection control.
6. Promote proper safe antibiotic use in raising livestock, poultry, aquaculture and cultivation

This plan is interdisciplinary Plan requires the efforts and commitment of all Ministries/ Agencies, at all levels from the central to local levels in order to prevent drug resistance, not only in the health sector.

MOH has established the National Steering Committee on the prevention of drug resistance (Decision No. 879 / QD-BYT dated 03/13/2014) and 9 sub-committees for drug resistance surveillance. These Committees have issued many legal documents on clinical pharmacy activities; prescribing and use of drugs in treatment; drug information; hospital infection control; building manual of diagnosis and treatment, antibiotic use; regularly organized seminars, training, continuous training for health workers to improve their skills on good prescribing practice, clinical pharmacy practice, promoting the activities of Council of drugs and treatment...

MOH has received the cooperation of international organizations and development partners such as WHO, FAO, USAID, CDC, OUCRU, JICA, government of Swedish, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway ... To implement this Action Plan successfully, directions of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; the coordination action of all levels, departments, agencies from the central to the local level: agencies of the MOH: Medical Service Administration (MSA), Department of Preventive Medicine, Department of Preventive HIV / AIDS, Department of Planning and Finance,... DOH of provinces/cities under central management, hospitals under the MOH and the cooperation and assistance of international organizations and development partners are need.

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