

D15-20204

MEMO

TO: Dr Geoff Coombs
Chair, Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

FROM: Kathy Meleady, Director, AURA - Commonwealth Programs

RE: National data storage arrangements – targeted antimicrobial resistance

DATE: 10 July 2015

Dear Geoff,

As you know, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is establishing a nationally integrated antimicrobial use (AU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance system (the AURA project). Following our recent discussions concerning the 2015/16 funding agreement for the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR), I thought it may be helpful to write regarding the development of plans for the next 12 months in regard to the development of AURA information systems.

The first phase integrated national surveillance system for AMR and AU will consist of a number of components: a central data repository and an AURA web site; a central coordinating unit (the AURA team); and, multiple streams of activity collecting data on AMR and AU from existing programs, such as AGAR, and establishing new data collections, as needed. This activity will encompass both passive and targeted surveillance, across community and acute care sectors.

Adj Prof Deb Picone, CEO of the Commission has approved AURA proceeding with the Health Portfolio Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) as the central data repository. The EDW will hold data sets extracted from a number of programs established by collaborating partners who are collecting and reporting on AU and AMR surveillance activity. There will be a phased approach to the inclusion of data streams in the EDW. A number of related projects are currently under development including national ethics arrangements and a data governance framework, as well as the AURA website.

In the first phase to be completed by June 2016, key historical data sets have been prioritised for transfer into the EDW, to enable secure national and jurisdictional analysis and reporting of AMR and AU data. The transfer of historical AMR data captured by AGAR for 2013 and 2014 is the top priority, as it offers excellent coverage of targeted AMR data, including limited outcome data.

In its role to coordinate national surveillance, the Commission will work with collaborating partners to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear. The Commission seeks to avoid any duplication of effort, and ensure effective communication during this important phase of work.

In order to progress this work, the Commission is looking forward to working together to achieve a timely transfer of data, alongside the enhancements to AGAR to occur in 2015/16. The AURA team will work with you to establish a process to formalise arrangements for transfer of AGAR data, and to establish a development cycle for AGAR to ensure that future enhancements to AGAR meet both the needs of health services and the national surveillance system.

Requests for detailed information about AGAR processes may also occur and your early response to these will be important. Initially, would you be able to provide details of all current or planned work in regard to information systems development, in particular, data collection methods.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me on (02) 9126 3640 or at kathy.meleady@safetyandquality.gov.au.

Thank you


Kathy Meleady

cc: Prof John Turnidge, Senior Clinical Adviser, AURA - Commonwealth Programs
Elizabeth Hanley, Senior Project Officer, AURA - Commonwealth Programs