

AMR Alliance Japan Urgent Forum Report

The Stable Supply of Antimicrobials and Crisis in the Antimicrobial Market

A Call for Action from the G20

The G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration released in June 2019 expressed a commitment to global cooperation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). To support discussion on this topic at the October 2019 G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, AMR Alliance Japan held an urgent forum on two causes of antimicrobial access problems – the global antimicrobial supply chain, and the structure of the global antimicrobials market. AMR Alliance Japan submits the following summary of the discussion at that urgent forum for consideration by the governments of the G20.

Problems Ensuring the Stable Supply of Antimicrobials Encourage the Spread of AMR and Pose a Serious Health Security Threat

Antimicrobial supply problems have been emerging recently across the world. These problems hinder the effective treatment of infectious diseases and prevent proper antimicrobial stewardship, thereby encouraging the spread of AMR. This poses a great risk to the health security of all countries by threatening to create a situation in the future in which infectious diseases are increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to cure. The G20 must recognize the threat of AMR and undertake the following measures to ensure the stable supply of antimicrobials.

Global Cooperation is Needed to Strengthen Antimicrobial Supply Chains

Antimicrobial supply chains as a whole are extremely fragile – economic issues in the antimicrobial market mean that production often relies on just one region. G20 leaders must come together to protect their people against antimicrobial supply risks. Extensive global cooperation is needed on this issue. The G20 should consider the construction of a public-private partnership (PPP) or similar framework that can ensure the stable supply of antimicrobials on a global scale. This framework must include mechanisms for real-time information sharing on the production, demand, and supply of antimicrobials, the appropriate stockpiling of antimicrobials, and measures for multilateral support when supply problems do occur. The framework must also include financial measures to support antimicrobial production.

Action is Needed to Address Global Antimicrobial Market Issues

Recent antimicrobial supply problems are a result of structural issues in the antimicrobials market, including falling price and reimbursement rates, which are increasingly forcing pharmaceutical companies to produce antimicrobials at a loss. This situation makes it extremely difficult for companies to enter or stay in the market. Such difficulties also discourage innovation and efforts to foster the antimicrobials researchers of the next generation. Recognizing that a stable antimicrobial market is indispensable to the public health of all countries, the G20 must advance discussion on how to solve antimicrobial market issues, including through pricing and reimbursement rate reforms, antimicrobial regulation harmonization, the construction of new incentive models, and the creation of risk-sharing frameworks.

This report was compiled by the AMR Alliance Japan Secretariat (Health and Global Policy Institute), and should not be construed to represent the opinion of any singular forum speaker.