



قرار

Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC57/R.6
October 2010

Fifty-seventh Session

Agenda item 4(d)

Infection prevention and control in health care: time for collaborative action

The Regional Committee

Having reviewed the technical paper on infection prevention and control in health care: time for collaborative action¹;

Recalling resolutions WHA51.17 Emerging and other communicable diseases: antimicrobial resistance, WHA55.18 Quality of care: patient safety, WHA56.19 Prevention and control of influenza pandemic and annual epidemics and EM/RC52/R.4 Regional strategy for enhancing patient safety;

Concerned at the high prevalence of health care-associated infections in several countries in the Region, ranging from 12% to 18%, and the high burden of transmissible infections among health care workers due to unsafe health care practices;

Further concerned that infection prevention and control in health care is not a well recognized discipline within health systems and that a cohesive framework is lacking in most countries;

Recalling that the economic and opportunity costs of health care-associated infections are enormous, and that preventing a case of health care-associated infection can substantially reduce a patient's risk of death;

Recognizing that the current global evidence clearly demonstrates that a considerable proportion of the burden of health-care associated infections can be prevented with low-cost but high yielding interventions;

Emphasizing that collaborative actions are required to prevent health-care associated infection in order to protect every health gain and investment made in the health sector and to significantly reduce health care costs;

¹ Document no. EM/RC57/6

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Strengthen/establish comprehensive national infection prevention and control programmes as an integral part of health care delivery systems with appropriate resources;
- 1.2 Ensure that all infection prevention and control measures implemented in health care facilities are consistent with the available evidence and best practices;
- 1.3 Build up human resource capacity on infection prevention and control and include infection prevention and control in the curricula of all health care workers;
- 1.4 Ensure that all health care providers take necessary personal protection measures, including immunization, as appropriate;
- 1.5 Define and establish comprehensive surveillance systems for health care-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, and strengthen laboratory services;
- 1.6 Link accreditation of health care facilities to effective infection prevention and control measures;

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Continue to support Member States in establishing/strengthening evidence-based infection prevention and control programmes;
- 2.2 Establish a regional committee of experts to promote infection prevention and control standards in the Region.