NOTICE OF NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIONAL MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Hereby, the National Department of Health calls for nomination from suitably qualified individuals for appointment to the National Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

As per Section 91 of the National Health Act, 2003, the Minister may, after consultation with the National Health Council, establish advisory committees as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

The Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework 2014-2024 was developed in 2014 and forms the basis upon which AMR will be managed in South Africa to limit further increases in infections caused by resistant microorganisms, and improve patient outcomes. Within the Strategy Framework, a multi-disciplinary MAC on AMR will be established, funded and mandated to coordinate inter-sectoral efforts nationally, provide advocacy and awareness as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of strategy.

The MAC’s primary responsibility will be to provide the Minister with advice and recommendations, and help coordinate activities related to:

a) The institutionalisation of effective systems of antimicrobial stewardship at national, provincial and institutional level in both the public and private sectors using the “one health” approach;

b) National structured surveillance and reporting systems for antimicrobial use and resistance in the human health and agriculture sectors for the detection of newly emerged resistance;

c) The selection of antimicrobial agents on the Essential Medicine List based on trends and patterns of resistance;

d) Progress towards achieving compliance to the standards for Antimicrobial Stewardship in the National Core Standards in all health establishments;

e) Evaluate the use of antimicrobials in agriculture or as growth promoters in food animals;

f) The prevention strategies focusing on infection prevention and control and enhanced vaccination programmes;

g) Core curricula on Antimicrobial Resistance for health and veterinary professionals;

h) National community advocacy, awareness and education campaigns to reduce inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animal health;

i) Rapid and/or point-of-care diagnostics;

ej) Research into molecular mechanisms of resistance, dissemination of resistance, new drugs and diagnostics.
The MAC on AMR will establish a communication framework to ensure that all issues related to Antimicrobial Resistance management are communicated timeously and effectively to internal and external stakeholders. Below are some of the expected committees that will be communicated with although the list is not exhaustive.

South African citizens or permanent residents are eligible for appointment if they have suitable work experience and expertise in the human, animal or agricultural sectors in at least one of the following areas:

i. Microbiology from public sector and private sector
ii. Infectious Diseases
iii. Infection Control
iv. Paediatric Infectious Diseases
v. Pharmacist from public sector and private sector, community and district level
vi. Information systems or data warehousing related to communicable diseases
vii. Family medicine
viii. Epidemiology
ix. Health Economics

Appointed members would be expected to:

- Agree to comply with a code of practice pertaining to declaration of interest and confidentiality.
- Act with the highest professional and ethical standard at all times.
- Avail themselves for meetings, punctually and for the whole of the scheduled meeting time.
- Contribute to debates in an informed and rational way.
- Take decisions solely in the interests of the public.
- Respect and value each member’s perspective and contribution.
- Facilitate the work of the Committee.
In order to ensure balanced representation in the Committee, it is essential that all candidates have the relevant qualifications and expertise, and are representative of the geographic and demographic diversity of South Africa.

The National Department of Health reserves the right to verify details submitted and to subject candidates to the necessary security clearance. Correspondence will be limited to selected candidates only. No late applications will be accepted. The final selection of members will be made by the National Department of Health.

Interested persons are requested to complete and submit the Essential Drugs Programme Committee Application and Declaration of Interest forms by e-mail to:

Dr Ruth Lancaster
Tel: 012 395 9756
E-mail: LancaR@health.gov.za or SAEDP@health.gov.za

All submissions should be received by 21 February 2016.

Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated.

Kind regards

DR T PILLAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH REGULATIONS AND COMPLIANCE
DATE: 05/02/2016.