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Development and Dissemination of a School Antibiotic and Hygiene Education Pack and website across Europe

JA2015 - GPSD [705038]

| START DATE: | 15/06/2006 |
| END DATE: | 15/09/2009 |
| DURATION: | 39 month(s) |
| CURRENT STATUS: | Finalised |
| PROGRAMME TITLE: | First Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) |
| PROGRAMME PRIORITY: | - |
| CALL: | Health Threats (Ht 2005) |
| TOPIC: | Enhancing the capability of responding rapidly and in a co-ordinated fashion to health threats |
| EC CONTRIBUTION: | 1119215 EUR |
| KEYWORDS: | |
| PORTFOLIO: | Antimicrobial resistance, Population groups |
General objectives

The objective of this project is to disseminate across Europe an antibiotic and hygiene teaching resource for 9-16 year olds. The aim is that all children will leave school with knowledge of prudent antibiotic use and how to reduce spread of infections for themselves and their future young children, which is where much of the antibiotic mis-use occurs. The pack will be based on a resource already used in the UK ‘The Bug Investigators’ and the results of research undertaken in the associated countries. The pack and accompanying website will encourage a better understanding of infections and antibiotic resistance and how they spread. It will reinforce an awareness of the benefits of antibiotics but will also teach about the prudent use of antibiotics and how inappropriate use can have an adverse effect on an individual’s good bugs and antibiotic resistance in the community. The areas of hand and respiratory hygiene and spread of infections in the community will be covered, not just when to wash hands but how do so most effectively, so reducing spread of infections. Decreased spread of respiratory, gastrointestinal and skin infections will, in turn, contribute to the reduction in antibiotic use, and reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance. In order to achieve the objectives, a series of pupil activities will be created for different age groups and ethnic groups linking in with each country’s National Curriculum, in close collaboration with the Departments of Health in each country. We realise that each country has their own specific cultural needs and problems associated with antibiotic overuse and hygiene. These will be researched, assessed and incorporated into the activities. Different countries will be able to use the activity worksheets that most suit their aims to encourage prudent antibiotic use, control antibiotic resistance and reduce the spread of infectious disease and antibiotic resistance. To accompany the worksheet a website will be developed from which the resources may be downloaded and which will host interactive games, quizzes and links to other resources and web sites.

Strategic relevance and contribution to the public health programme

Antimicrobial resistance remains one of the key problems within community and hospital settings in Europe identified by the European Commission in the "Community strategy Against Antimicrobial Resistance" document published in 2001. This could be tackled by prudent antibiotic use through improved public and professional education. In many European countries, antibiotic prescription rates are highest in children. Within schools, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections are a major cause of childhood illness with poor respiratory and hand hygiene contributing to increased spread of infection. The Bug Investigator project in the UK is the only antibiotic educational campaign targeting school children teaching them how to use antibiotics rationally and how to reduce spread of infections through improved hygiene. The aim of the educational activities is to reduce cross-infection in schools, so reducing the need for antibiotics, and to improve the prudent use of antibiotics in young people
when they leave school.

Methods and means

The aim of the project is to produce an educational pack and website across Europe. This will be based on an educational pack and website already produced for junior schools within Great Britain.

Over the first 9 months the staff employed by the Main Partner and by City University (EBug web designed – staff member) will research the school education and public education resources on hand and respiratory hygiene and prudent antibiotic use across the Associated Partner countries. They will also identify stakeholders in education and health in each country through whom the pack should be disseminated. During this research phase the EBug pack staff members and web designers will attend any educational courses that are necessary for them to implement the project.

The research findings will be presented at the 12 month meeting. At this meeting the Associated Partners, Collaborating Partners and Stakeholders identified in the research period will discuss the content of the pack and website and possible school dissemination mechanisms.

Between 12 and 21 months the pack and website will be designed in the UK. The pack will be reviewed and commented on by the Associated Partners and other reviewers in each country.

The pack will be presented to the Associated Partners at the 21 month meeting and a dissemination strategy in each country will be discussed.

Between 21 and 36 months a staff member in each Associated Partner country will be employed to translate the pack and website and disseminate the pack through school and educational meetings. The packs will be sent to each country’s Department of Education for approval as an educational resource. The use of the packs and effectiveness will be assessed in 3 countries. The packs will also be disseminated via international antibiotic and education meetings such as ECCMID and FIS.

At the 36 month meeting the packs and website will be presented to the Collaborating Partners. The Departments of Health and Education in other European countries will also be informed of the EBug pack and the results of the evaluation and dissemination.

There will be a final face-to-face meeting of the Associated Partners at 39 months to discuss the final report. There will also be 10 additional teleconferences.

An audit committee chaired by Herman Goossens will ensure the project runs to time.
Work package 1: Coordination of the project
Work package 2: Dissemination of the results
Work package 3: Evaluation of the project
Work package 4: Background research for EBug
Work package 5: Design and development of EBug pack
Work package 6: Design and development of EBug website
Work package 7: Implementation of EBug in Associated Partner countries
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Original Full Information (Dec 2008)
Health Protection Agency (HPA)
Development and Dissemination of a School Antibiotic and Hygiene Education Pack and website across Europe (EBUG PACK)
Published on: 15/06/2006