

Nurses: an underused, vital asset against drug-resistant infections

Castro-Sánchez, Enrique; Bosanquet, Jo; Courtenay, Molly; Gallagher, Rose; Gotterson, Fiona; Manias, Elizabeth; McEwen, Jo; Ness, Val; Olans, Rita; Padoveze, Maria Clara; Toit, Briette du; Bennasar-Veny, Miquel

Published in:
The Lancet

DOI:
[10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)01531-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01531-8)

Publication date:
2022

Document Version
Author accepted manuscript

[Link to publication in ResearchOnline](#)

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Castro-Sánchez, E, Bosanquet, J, Courtenay, M, Gallagher, R, Gotterson, F, Manias, E, McEwen, J, Ness, V, Olans, R, Padoveze, MC, Toit, BD & Bennasar-Veny, M 2022, 'Nurses: an underused, vital asset against drug-resistant infections', *The Lancet*, vol. 400, no. 10354, pp. 729. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)01531-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01531-8)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please view our takedown policy at <https://edshare.gcu.ac.uk/id/eprint/5179> for details of how to contact us.

22tl4143corr

Nurses: an underused, vital asset against drug-resistant infections

Christopher J L Murray and colleagues¹

consolidated the evidence on the burden of drug-resistant infections, highlighting key pathogens and their unjust distribution worldwide, which demands a multifaceted, planetary response.

The success of this response would benefit from an interprofessional approach, which formalises the involvement of nurses, the largest and often most trusted health workforce, yet underutilised against drug-resistant infections. Although the worldwide nursing shortage threatens their contribution in antimicrobial resistance and activities to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, expanding antimicrobial stewardship nursing practice could future-proof health-care provision allowing medical specialists to focus on complex drug-resistant infections.

Regardless of the increasing number of nurses prescribing antimicrobials, or their influence on prescribing as knowledge brokers,² at least three of the strategies proposed by Murray and colleagues¹—infection prevention and control, vaccination, and minimised use in humans—have substantial input from nurses. Addressing infections has historically been embraced by nurses, with many infection outcomes being influenced by nursing care. However, the value of nurses in stewardship should not be just centred on clinical work. Nurses are involved across the entire health economy and are excellent advocates to promote self-care and a salutogenic approach, and foster health literacy of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication and education. Nursing leadership and activism have been robust in

advocating for improvements to determinants of infections.³

Further nursing action in antimicrobial stewardship requires closing of the gaps in education⁴ and awareness of antimicrobial competencies⁵ and stewardship models, which recognise the nursing contribution. Additionally, antimicrobial stewardship nursing research could benefit from investment to achieve its full potential.

The planetary threat of drug-resistant infections should encourage the inclusion of nurses in the global response, eager as they are to embrace their potential.

We declare no competing interests.

**Enrique Castro-Sánchez,
Jo Bosanquet, Molly Courtenay,
Rose Gallagher, Fiona Gotterson,
Elizabeth Manias, Jo McEwen,
Val Ness, Rita Olans,
Maria Clara Padoveze, Briette du Toit,
Miquel Bennasar-Veny*
enrique.castro.sanchez@uwl.ac.uk

Richard Wells Centre, University of West London, Brentford TW8 9GB, UK (EC-S); South Kensington Campus, Imperial College London, London, UK (EC-S); The Foundation of Nursing Studies, London, UK (JB); School of Healthcare Sciences, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK (MC); Royal College of Nursing, London, UK (RG); Department of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences, the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia (FG); National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne, VIC, Australia (FG); School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health, Deakin University, Geelong, VIC, Australia (EM); Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, UK (JM); Department of Nursing and Community Health, School of Health and Life Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, UK (VN); School of Nursing, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA, USA (RO); School of Nursing, University of São Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil (MCP); Infection Control Africa Network, Cape Town, South Africa (BdT); Department of Nursing and Physiotherapy, Research Group on Global Health, University of the Balearic Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Spain (MB-V); Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands, Palma, Spain (MB-V)

- 1 Murray CJL, Ikuta KS, Sharara F, et al. Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. *Lancet* 2022; **399**: 629–55.
- 2 Gotterson F, Buising K, Manias E. Nurse role and contribution to antimicrobial stewardship: an integrative

- review. *Int J Nurs Stud* 2021; **117**: 103787.
- 3 Rosa WE, Hannaway CJ, McArdle C, et al. Nurses for health equity: guidelines for tackling the social determinants of health. 2021. <https://www.wish.org.qa/reports/nurses-for-health-equity-guidelines-for-tackling-the-social-determinants-of-health/> (accessed July 17, 2022).
 - 4 Castro-Sánchez E, Drumright LN, Gharbi M, Farrell S, Holmes AH. Mapping antimicrobial stewardship in undergraduate medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, and veterinary education in the United Kingdom. *PLoS One* 2016; **11**: e0150056.
 - 5 Courtenay M, Castro-Sánchez E, Gallagher R, et al. Development of consensus-based international antimicrobial stewardship competencies for undergraduate nurse education. *J Hosp Infect* 2019; **103**: 244–50.