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Panel mooted to keep eye on antibiotic use

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With the unscrupulous use of antibiotics leading to a dangerous trend of resistance to the drugs, Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) has proposed a compulsory committee to monitor antibiotic use in hospitals.

MMC took the decision to suggest amendment in the Hospital Registration Act or Clinical Establishment Act after seeing a rise in antibiotic resistance cases.

MMC president Dr Kishor Taori said, "Following drug hygiene is vital. We propose having a committee by hospitals to monitor antibiotics prescribed by their doctors."

The rampant use of antibiotics for the last 10 years by doctors and over-the-counter sale has led to a serious health care crisis across the country. According to health experts, treating gram negative infections — which affect hospitalised patients mostly — is getting difficult because the bacteria is evolving and becoming ever more immune to existing antibiotics.

"We will have an expert committee and, along with stakeholders, work on how to bring in drug hygiene in our practice. It is observed that many doctors go for high-end antibiotics in the very first go so that the patient recovers quickly. While

the patient goes home happy, what s/he and the doctor don't realise is that this has made him/her more resistant to drugs. With no new antibiotics in market, we need to preserve the existing ones and use them with caution," said Taori.

In a recent audit of prescriptions of suspected dengue deaths, a BMC committee observed non-judicious use of antibiotics in treatment.

Dr Om Shrivastava, infectious disease expert at Jaslok Hospital, said there should be a three-level audit for antibiotics. "There should be an in-

6 Treatment of pneumonia, UTI & typhoid is getting affected the most...

—Dr Khusrav Bajan, intensivist from PD Hinduja Hospital

dependent committee to monitor antibiotic use in government and private hospitals and chemist shops. Presently, the gram-negative infections are the biggest concern when it comes to antibiotic resistance. This not only leads to prolonged hospital stay but also to treatment cost going up," he added.

In the recent past, data has revealed a six-fold increase in the number of antibiotics being popped by Indians.

Govt.