# **Sonali Johnson,** Head of Knowledge, Advocacy and Policy, Union for International Cancer Control

"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a huge threat to cancer care. In order to improve cancer care outcomes, appropriate and timely treatment for infections is crucial. The causes of AMR most often discussed are overuse and the irrational use of medicines due to bad prescribing practices, and lack of diagnostics. These are very important aspects of addressing AMR. However, the issue of substandard or falsified medicines is sometimes overlooked and needs the same attention. Substandard, falsified and poor-quality medicines are also an important driver of AMR. According to the World Health Organization, antimalarials and antibiotics are amongst the most commonly reported substandard and falsified medical products and an estimated 1 in 10 medical products in low- and middle-income countries are substandard or falsified. This is an unacceptable situation with dangerous consequences for the medical community and for people living with cancer, and needs to be addressed through actions such as strengthening regulatory systems, improving access to quality-assured medicines, improving supply chain barriers and improving awareness of the scale of the problem in governments and with patient education."

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