

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

5 Things You Should Know

1 What Is Antimicrobial Resistance?

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microbes - bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites - accumulate changes over time and no longer respond to treatments designed to kill them, such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials
- These 'superbugs' are increasingly difficult to treat and has become 'one of the biggest threats in global health, food security and development today,' according to the World Health Organisation

2 What Causes Antimicrobial Resistance?



Over-prescribing antimicrobials



Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics



Lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene



Unnecessary use of antimicrobials in livestock



Patients not finishing the full antimicrobial treatment course



Shortage of new antimicrobial developments

3 Why Is It A Global Challenge?

700 THOUSAND

people worldwide die each year from drug-resistance infections

\$100 TRILLION

economic cost of AMR from lost global production by 2050

10 MILLION

estimated global deaths of AMR each year by 2050



4 Why Is This Important?

AT LEAST
1 in 5



antibiotics prescribed within UK primary care may be inappropriate

SURGERY

Vulnerable patients may be at high risk during surgery, such as caesarean sections, without effective antimicrobials to prevent or treat surgical infections

30 MILLION
women had a caesarean section in 2017

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Long-term conditions (e.g. diabetes) and certain drugs can weaken the immune system and increase the risk of infections. This is dangerous if there are no antibiotics to minimise these risks

422 MILLION
people have diabetes worldwide

SEPSIS TREATMENT

Sepsis is caused by the body's over-reactive response to an infection. Without appropriate antimicrobial treatment, sepsis can lead to organ failure and even death

1.7 MILLION
adults develop sepsis every year

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How Can You Prevent It?



Wash your hands to prevent spreading germs and avoid close contact with sick people



Use antimicrobials appropriately by completing the full prescription course recommended by your doctor, even if you feel better



Keep your vaccinations up-to-date to prevent resistant infections in the first place



Ask questions to your healthcare provider about your risks for certain infections so you can take better care