

Appropriate Antibiotic Use – Saves lives, saves money, makes sense.

Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

Wednesday, November 17, 2010



Did you know?

1. Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health threats.
2. Antibiotics are the most important tool we have to combat life-threatening bacterial diseases.
3. Increased antibiotic resistance is compromising the effectiveness of antibiotics.
4. Patients, healthcare providers, hospital administrators, and policy makers must work together to employ effective strategies for improving appropriate antibiotic use – ultimately saving lives.

Cost of the Problem

- Antibiotic resistance increases the economic burden on the entire healthcare system.
- Resistant infections cost more to treat and can prolong healthcare use.
- In one study, the cost of 188 cases of antibiotic-resistant infections was \$15 million.
- More than \$1.1 billion is spent annually on unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections in adults.

U.S. antibiotic-resistant infections are responsible for:

- *\$20 billion in excess healthcare costs*
- *\$35 billion in societal costs*
- *8 million additional hospital days*

Why we must act now

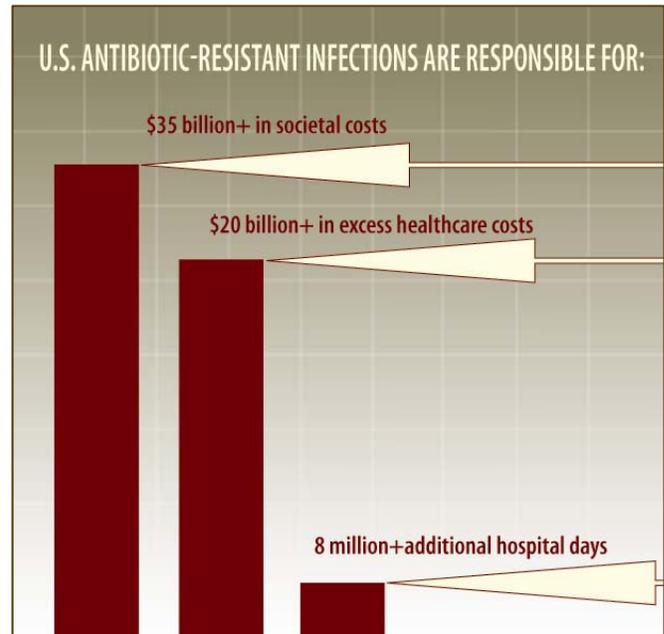
- Antibiotics are a shared resource – and becoming a scarce resource. We must make better use of existing antibiotics through appropriate antibiotic use.
- Appropriate use of existing antibiotics can limit the spread of antibiotic resistance, preserving antibiotics for the future.
- Antibiotic resistance is not just a problem for the person with the infection. Some resistant bacteria have the potential to spread to others – promoting antibiotic-resistant infections.

Hospital administrators and payers can help

- We must enhance efforts to get healthcare administrators to recognize the importance of antibiotic stewardship and provide resources to do it.
- Interventions to improve antibiotic use can be done in any setting.
- Every facility – regardless of setting and hospital size – should emphasize and implement antibiotic stewardship.
 - Antibiotic stewardship helps improve patient care and shorten hospital stays, thus benefiting patients as well as the hospitals.
 - Antibiotic stewardship programs are a “win-win” for all involved.
- Reducing unnecessary antibiotic use can decrease resistance, *Clostridium difficile* infections, costs, and improve patient outcomes.
- Improving antibiotic use improves patient outcomes while saving healthcare dollars.
 - Community education campaigns make a difference. A four-month local media campaign in Colorado focusing on appropriate antibiotic use saved two managed care organizations \$815,000 in prescription and visit costs.
 - Inpatient antibiotic stewardship programs have consistently demonstrated annual savings of \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- Payers should monitor Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) performance measures on pharyngitis, upper respiratory infection, acute bronchitis, and antibiotic utilization.
- Make appropriate antibiotic use a quality improvement and patient safety priority.

Steps to starting an Antimicrobial Resistance Stewardship Program:

- 1) Ensure all orders have dose, duration, and indications
- 2) Get cultures before starting antibiotics
- 3) Take an “antibiotic time-out,” reassessing antibiotics after 48-72 hours



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information, please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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