

# Preserving Antibiotics for the Future

## Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

Friday, November 19, 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.

### Looking ahead at the problem

- No single strategy can solve the antibiotic resistance problem; a multi-pronged approach is required.
- New and safe antibiotics are not easy to discover and develop.
- There are not enough new antibiotics being researched or developed, and we must promote the development of new antibiotics to treat serious and life-threatening infections.
- Because it will be many years before new antibiotics are available to treat some resistant infections, we must do a better job of emphasizing appropriate use of the antibiotics that are currently available.
- We must educate everyone about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and the appropriate use of antibiotics.
- We must eliminate all non-judicious uses of antibiotics – in human medicine, animal medicine, and agriculture.
- We must prevent the emergence and transmission of resistant infections through research into new vaccines and diagnostics and the implementation of other effective infection-prevention and control initiatives.
- Improving antibiotic use takes time and investment, but is worth it in the end.

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### Why we must act now

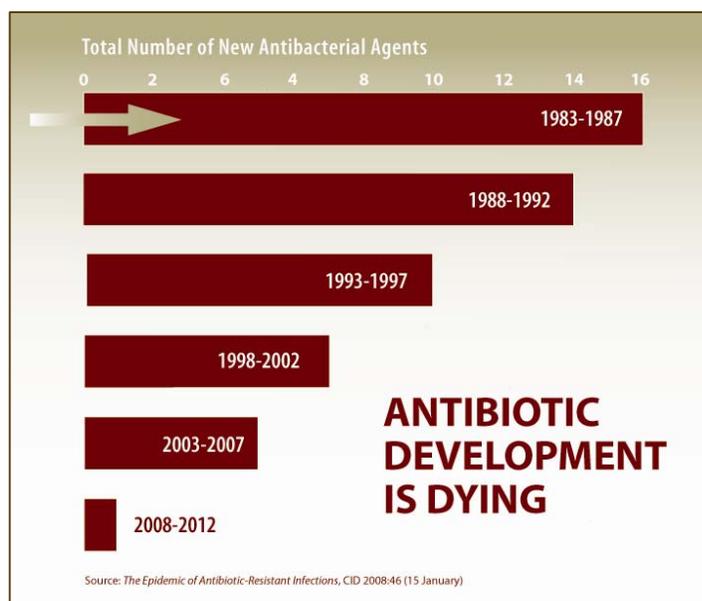
- Antibiotics are a shared resource – and becoming a scarce resource.
- Appropriate use of existing antibiotics can limit the spread of antibiotic resistance, preserving antibiotics for the future.
- Antibiotic resistance is not just a problem for the person with the infection. Some resistant bacteria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

## Changing the way we think about antibiotics for the future

- Antibiotic use is a healthcare quality issue.
- Investments in appropriate antibiotic use will pay off, saving lives and money.
- We must ensure that healthcare facilities have support for antibiotic stewardship interventions and programs.
- For antibiotic stewardship programs and efforts to succeed, it must be a collective effort.

## Vaccines as a strategy for addressing antimicrobial resistance

- Developing new vaccines can decrease rates of antibiotic-resistant infections.
- The first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) was licensed in the U.S. for use in infants and children in 2000. By 2008, cases of resistant pneumococcal disease decreased by 64 percent in children younger than 5 years of age.
- PCV13, licensed in 2010, provides an opportunity to prevent even more resistant infections of pneumococcal disease.



### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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