

Federal Government Commitments to Antibiotic Stewardship

The United States Government departments and agencies are leading by example in establishing and expanding antibiotic stewardship programs to improve patient outcomes and minimize the development of antibiotic resistance.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):

- In 2015 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other professional organizations will gather evidence needed to propose regulatory changes, as necessary, to CMS that adhere to best practices, such as those identified by the CDC, which provide flexible and tailored implementation guidance for hospitals implementing antibiotic stewardship programs, to further promote antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals and long-term care facilities.
- CDC will continue to expand the [National Healthcare Safety Network](#) to help hospitals and additional healthcare facilities track antibiotic use and resistance. CDC will also expand its national education campaign to ensure that patients get the right medicine, at the right dose and at the right time.
- On May 20, 2015, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a [proposed rule](#) that includes additional reporting requirements for sponsors of antibiotics approved for use in food-producing animals to obtain estimates of sales by major food-producing species (cattle, swine, chickens, and turkeys). The additional data would improve understanding about how antimicrobials are sold or distributed for use in major food-producing species and help the FDA further target its efforts to ensure judicious use of medically important antimicrobials.
- FDA announced today the final a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule. This final regulation is an important piece of FDA's overall strategy to promote the judicious use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals as it is a critical step in facilitating the process of bringing the feed-use of such antibiotics under the oversight of licensed veterinarians.
- FDA, CDC, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are jointly planning a public meeting for late summer of 2015 to seek input on a plan to collect additional on-farm data regarding antibiotic use and resistance in food-producing animals. These data will supplement existing surveillance data used to evaluate the impact of [FDA's Guidance to Industry #213](#) on antibiotic use practices and resistance trends over time.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is investing in research to generate new knowledge, strengthen the evidence base for antibiotic stewardship, and develop improved methods for conducting and promoting the implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs.
- This summer, CDC will release new antibiotic stewardship guidance and tools for nursing homes and other long-term care settings. CDC will be releasing a new guidance document – the *Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship Programs for Long-Term Care Settings* -- which will provide a framework for nursing homes and other long-term care settings to develop effective stewardship programs. AHRQ is currently developing a new companion *Nursing Home Antibiotic Stewardship Guide* which will provide information and practical tools to help nursing homes implement antibiotic stewardship programs. In July 2015, AHRQ will begin a field test of the guide in 10 nursing homes. The guide will be refined on the basis of lessons learned in the field test, and the guide will subsequently be disseminated to nursing homes.
- Today HHS is issuing a [Request for Information](#) to obtain stakeholder input from the medical and scientific communities, industry, and the public on the parameters of the diagnostic test(s) that

should be eligible for the \$20 million prize competition HHS, through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), will co-sponsor for the development of a successful, rapid, point-of-care in vitro diagnostic test for health care providers to use to identify bacterial infections. . In addition, FDA is planning a Public Workshop for this fall on the development of non-microbiological biomarkers of infection to facilitate appropriate use of antimicrobial drugs.

The United States Department of Agriculture:

- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded food safety grants in FY2015 to projects that included strategies for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). For example, one of this year's projects included Washington State University's efforts to investigate AMR impact on dairy farms and calf-rearing ranches by researching the effects of different antibiotics on AMR prevalence, the existence of AMR reservoirs and niches, and the maintenance and spread of AMR throughout the farms and ranches.
- USDA NIFA awarded research grants to increase food security through improved livestock health. These grants include research on alternatives to antimicrobials, such as improved vaccines, which could lead to a decrease in antimicrobial agent use.

The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- By the end of calendar year 2016, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will review their existing regulations and, as appropriate, propose new regulations and other actions that require their hospitals and long-term care facilities to implement robust antibiotic stewardship programs that adhere to best practices, such as those defined by the CDC. DoD and VA will also take steps to encourage other healthcare facilities, such as ambulatory surgery centers and outpatient clinics, to adopt antibiotic stewardship programs. To this end, VA will enhance and conduct follow-up evaluation of its Antimicrobial Stewardship Program already in place across the country.
- The VA is collaborating with the CDC to improve monitoring of antibiotic use across all VA hospitals. In April 2015, over 40 VA hospitals began reporting antibiotic use data to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), additional VA hospitals will begin reporting throughout the year. Monitoring antibiotic use through CDC's NHSN will assist VA and other hospitals to evaluate trends in prescribing and target areas and institutions for improvement.