



ANTIBIOTIC OVERUSE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE

ARE WE HEADING TO THE 'POST ANTIBIOTIC ERA'?

Some data to reflect

AMR causes 33,000 deaths every year in the EU – projected to be 10 times higher by 2050.

More than the expected number of deaths from cancer and diabetes combined

Last resort antibiotic use increasing in EU hospitals, even of those antibiotics whose use was ruled out due to their toxicity (Colistin).



THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR, A MAJOR FOOD PURCHASER AND ANTIBIOTIC CONSUMER

The loss of clinical efficiency of antimicrobials affects hospitals directly.

Globally, food production has the **highest use of antibiotics** (**estimated 66%** of the total).

The scale of food provided in the healthcare sector makes it a **well-positioned actor to drive sustainability** in the food supply chain.

ANTIBIOTICS, A SHARED TOOL FOR HUMANS AND ANIMALS

Humans

- Individual treatment
- Needs prescription from a doctor
- Only way to treat some infections
- Could be reduced by raising awareness

Animals

- Group treatment
- Can be prescribed without a veterinarian visit
- Only way to treat some infections
- Could be reduced by improving **animal welfare conditions**

A person wearing a white lab coat and a hairnet is adjusting their face mask. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered over the person's face and upper torso.

**REDUCING ANTIBIOTIC MISUSE IN
ANIMALS HELPS SAFEGUARD
THEM FOR HUMAN HEALTH**

HOW IS COLISTIN USED IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

A VITAL ANTIBIOTIC FOR HUMAN HEALTH

HUMANS

- Gram-negative bacteria resistant to carbapenems – Pneumonia, bloodstream infections, and wound or surgical site infections
- 67% increase in EU hospitals in 10 years

FOOD PRODUCTION

- Intestinal infections
- Piglets are **weaned early** to start the reproductive cycle of the animals more quickly
- Later weaning - no need for colistin



HOW ARE FLUOROQUINOLONES USED IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH?

HUMANS

Used to treat treatment of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, gastroenteritis and gonococcal infections.

Salmonella and Campylobacter are becoming increasingly resistant to fluoroquinolones.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Used in group treatment.

EFSA and ECDC have blamed fluoroquinolone use in poultry for the high levels of resistance found in human Campylobacter.





**RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE
ANIMAL WELFARE TO ENSURE
RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS**

FIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NEED OF ANTIBIOTICS



Reduce the need for tail-docking in piglets

Require all MS to submit national action plans for reducing tail docking.

Establish a transparency mechanism to track its implementation.

Introduce national targets for <5% piglets that have been tail-docked.



Avoid early weaning in piglets

Establish a new legally-binding minimum weaning period for piglets between 25 and 35 days of age.



End selective breeding in broiler chicken

Introduce a legally-binding 56-day minimum slaughter age for broilers.

FIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NEED OF ANTIBIOTICS



Improve hygienic conditions

Reduce the maximum stocking density for broiler chickens to 25kg/m².

Require natural or mechanical ventilation systems in animal housing.

Provide animals with appropriate enrichment materials.



Control animal welfare in EU farms

Introduce an EU-wide animal welfare label.

Require Member States to provide accurate information.



HOW CAN HOSPITALS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS GET INVOLVED?

GET INVOLVED!

Hospitals:

Support the criteria for food produced with responsible antimicrobial use.

Apply these criteria in your food procurement.

Health professionals:

Be part of our series of interviews to raise awareness of policymakers on the importance for human health of responsible antimicrobial use in farming.



NO HARM

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