

Why Pfizer is taking a stand against antimicrobial resistance

What you need to know

Antimicrobial medicines, especially antibiotics that target bacteria, are among the most precious medical resources the world has ever known.¹ Alarming, they are losing their effectiveness, because pathogens change and find ways to resist the effects of antibiotics. The pathogens survive, grow and spread their resistance.² This process of adaptation leads to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).²

Why you should care

Antimicrobial resistance, particularly in Gram-negative bacteria, is widely recognized as one of the biggest threats to global health today, with the potential to affect anyone, of any age, in any country.^{3,4,5} If no solution is found, the impact could be devastating.²

Serious infections such as pneumonia or tuberculosis could become impossible to treat ^{2,6}	Many routine medical procedures could be too risky to perform because of the risk of becoming infected while in hospital by a multi-drug resistant pathogen ¹	One in four infections in long-term acute care settings are caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria ⁷	
Minor infections and injuries could become life-threatening ²	Travel could be considered too risky, impacting global trade ¹	By 2050, it is reported that annual global GDP could fall by 3.8 % and an additional 28.3 million people could fall into extreme poverty ⁸	Could lead to an estimated 10 million annual deaths by 2050 ¹

How Pfizer is making a difference

Pfizer has one of the industry's largest and most diverse portfolios of antimicrobials and is proud to be taking a lead in the fight to tackle AMR.⁹ We are deeply committed to working closely with the infectious disease community to address AMR,¹⁰ through:⁹



Active stewardship: to ensure patients receive the correct antibiotic, according to independent guidelines, only if needed and for the right duration¹¹



Innovative surveillance tools: to help physicians better understand current resistance patterns



Global policy leadership: to facilitate antibiotic development and proper use



Diverse portfolio: medicines and vaccines to treat and help prevent serious infections around the world



Manufacturing: responsible practices that do not harm human health or the environment

References: 1. Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. Tackling a crisis for the health and wealth of nations. December 2014. Available at: https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/AMR%20Review%20Paper%20-%20Tackling%20a%20crisis%20for%20the%20health%20and%20wealth%20of%20nations_1.pdf Last accessed August 2019. 2. Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. Tackling drug-resistant infections globally: final report and recommendations. May 2016. Available at: https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf Last accessed August 2019. 3. World Health Organization. WHO's first global report on antibiotic resistance reveals serious, worldwide threat to public health. April 30 2014. Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2014/amr-report/en/> Last accessed August 2019. 4. World Health Organization. Antibiotic resistance. October 2017. Available at: <http://www.who.int/me-diacentre/factsheets/antibiotic-resistance/en/> Last accessed August 2019. 5. Vasoo S et al. Emerging issues in gram-negative bacterial resistance: an update for the practicing clinician. Mayo Clinic Proc. 2015;90:395-403. 6. Sarda C, Fazal F, Rello J. Management of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) caused by resistant gram-negative bacteria: which is the best strategy to treat? Expert Rev Respir Med. 2019 Aug;13(8):787-798. 7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Making health care safer: protect patients from antibiotic resistance. March 03 2016. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2016-03-vitalsigns.pdf> Last accessed August 2019. 8. The World Bank. By 2050, drug-resistant infections could cause global economic damage on par with 2008 financial crisis. September 20 2016. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/09/18/by-2050-drug-resistant-infections-could-cause-global-economic-damage-on-par-with-2008-financial-crisis> Last accessed August 2019. 9. Pfizer Annual Review 2018. Available at: https://www.pfizer.com/files/investors/financial_reports/annual_reports/2018/assets/pdf/pfizer-2018-annual-review.pdf Last accessed August 2019. 10. Pfizer Policy position in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) August 2017. Available at: <https://www.pfizer.com/files/about/Policy-Position-on-Antimicrobial-Resistance-8-17-17.pdf> Last accessed August 2019. 11. Davey P, Marwick CA, Scott CL, et al. Interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing practices for hospital inpatients. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;2:Cd003543.