The Patients Association welcomes call for more action to stop superbugs

The Patients Association has today welcomed the publication of the final report by the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and calls on the Government to act now to address this global threat to patient safety. The review, which is chaired by Treasury Minister Lord O’Neill, estimates that antimicrobial resistance could be claiming 10 million lives every year by 2050.

Katherine Murphy, Chief Executive of the Patients Association, said:

“The Patients Association welcomes this vital report which focuses much-needed attention on antimicrobial resistance. This is at heart a patient safety issue. The Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies, rightly describes this as a worldwide ‘catastrophic threat’. We are therefore pleased to see that the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance is recommending global solutions to address inappropriate prescribing practices which occur across both the healthcare and agricultural sectors.

“More needs to be done to better safeguard patients and minimise their risk of developing dangerous antimicrobial-resistant infections. The Government must encourage the use of new technologies, such as rapid point-of-care testing. More support needs to be provided to the areas that are not sufficiently implementing the key antimicrobial stewardship recommendations.

“Last week the Patients Association published our own report looking at how Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are implementing the necessary guidance to address the inappropriate prescription of antibiotics. There have been a number of recently introduced policy measures and financial incentives that encourage the delivery of improved antimicrobial stewardship at a CCG level, and this is something that should be welcomed. However, failing to provide this focus and support for improving the uptake of key guidance already in existence will severely undermine the aspirations for this country to be a global leader in the battle against antimicrobial resistance, and will jeopardise the safety of patients in this crucial area.”

Notes to Editors:

- The Patients Association published a report last week on antimicrobial resistance, which can be accessed online [here](#).
- The Patients Association established the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Patient Safety in July last year and began by conducting an inquiry into infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance. Evidence has been taken from the Department of Health, Public Health England, The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the Association of Aseptic Practice and the AMR Review. The APPG will shortly be publishing its own report with a series of specific recommendations aimed at reducing healthcare-associated infections and the risk of antimicrobial resistance.
- The Patients Association is an independent national health and social care charity established over 52 years ago, which has a long history of campaigning to ensure that the voice of patients is heard within the UK Health and Social care system.
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