

Questions raised on Antibiotics - July 2015

Antibiotics: Livestock

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs written question

1st July 2015



Maria Eagle Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information her Department holds on the extend to which the presence of antibiotic resistant organisms in the human gut is the result of horizontal gene transmission from bacteria of farm animal origin, notwithstanding the strains of bacteria concerned.



Maria Eagle Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what research her Department has commissioned on horizontal gene transmission between bacteria in the human gut which transfers antibiotic resistance from one organism to another regardless of its strain or of its human or animal origin.



George Eustice

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The pathways through which antibiotic resistance genes can be transferred between bacteria of any origin or strain are complex.

The Department continues to carry out research and surveillance to better

assess the potential for, and the frequency of, spread of antibiotic resistance genes between bacteria, including between those of human and animal origin. Examples of recently commissioned or completed projects include:

- Potential risk to human and animal health from the emergence and spread of Beta-lactamase resistance in Great Britain.
- Molecular signature of antibiotic resistance in pigs as a potential source of antibiotic resistance in humans.
- Characterisation of [ESBL/Amp C/ Carbapenam resistant E.coli](#) from pigs and poultry to identify resistance genes, circulating plasmids and fitness attributes.

Livestock: Antibiotics

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs written question

2nd July 2015



[Lord Kennedy of Southwark](#) Labour

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the use of antibiotic products on farm animals contributes significantly to the antibiotic resistance problem.



[Lord Gardiner of Kimble](#) Conservative

Bacteria naturally adapt and find new ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic; any use of an antibiotic accelerates the risk that bacteria will develop resistance.

The Government continues to carry out research and surveillance to better understand the link between antibiotic use and development of resistance.

Antibiotics: Livestock

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs written question

2nd July 2015



Maria Eagle Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information her Department holds on the proportion of antibiotic use in the [UK](#) which is accounted for by administration to animals on farms.



George Eustice

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Government collects sales data on antibiotics sold for use in animals. Currently there are no data sets that allow direct comparison between animal and human use of antibiotics in the [UK](#).

For 2013; the current best estimate of total antibiotics dispensed for use in humans is 590 tonnes. Total antibiotics sold for use in animals was 420 tonnes, of which 355 tonnes were indicated for use in food producing animals, including fish.

Based on these data, antibiotics for food producing animals accounts for 35% of the total proportion of antibiotics in the [UK](#).



Maria Eagle Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential effect on the spread of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria of increased use of antibiotics in farm animals; and if she will make a statement.



George Eustice

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Bacteria naturally adapt and find new ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic; any use of an antibiotic increases the risk that bacteria will develop resistance.

The Government continues to carry out research and surveillance to better understand the link between antibiotic use and development of resistance. Final reports from completed research projects are published via [gov.uk](#), while results from surveillance of resistance in key zoonotic bacteria are published annually in the [Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance report](#).

Antibiotics: Livestock

Department of Health written question

3rd July 2015



David Anderson Labour, Blaydon

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health, what steps he is taking to address the effect of the overuse of antibiotics in farms animals.



Jane Ellison The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

Tackling the inappropriate use of antibiotics in both humans and animals is a key part of the [UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013-18](#), which was developed by the Department of Health jointly with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate ([VMD](#)).

Oversight of the implementation of the UK Strategy is the responsibility of the High Level Steering Group which is chaired by a senior Department of Health official and includes representatives from both Defra and VMD. The Steering Group produced an annual report and implementation plan in December 2014. This plan includes steps to reduce antibiotic usage in livestock production in real terms over the next four years. The document is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-report-on-the-uk-five-year-amr-strategy-2014>

Antibiotics: Animals

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs written question

7th July 2015



Maria Eagle Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what proportion of the use of antibiotics in animals was accounted for by mass medication in the last six years.



George Eustice

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Data collected on antibiotics sold for use in animals does not show what an antibiotic was used for, or in how many animals it was administered.

Antibiotics for administration through medicated feeding stuffs and water, which are typically used to treat livestock groups of any size, have accounted for, on average, 88% of total sales of veterinary antibiotics for the last six years.

Regardless of administration route, antibiotics can only be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon following a clinical diagnosis.

Myeloma

Department of Health written question

9th July 2015



Lord Willis of Knaresborough

Liberal Democrat

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the National Institute of Health Research Technology Assessment programme to publish initial findings from its assessment of the benefits of antibiotic prophylaxis and its effect on healthcare associated infections in myeloma patients.



Lord Prior of Brampton

Conservative

This trial is led by the University of Birmingham. The project is recruiting ahead of schedule and expects to reach its target of 800 in the near future. The target was to do so by the end of November 2015. Publication of initial findings is expected in 2017.

Urinary System: Diseases

Department of Health written question

14th July 2015



Tom Pursglove Conservative, Corby

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health, what guidance and information is available to (a) NHS healthcare workers, (b) patients and (c) carers of patients who regularly suffer from urinary-tract infections.



Jane Ellison The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

Guidance aimed at healthcare staff, patients, carers and the public on the care and treatment of people with urinary tract infections (UTIs) is available from a number of sources. These include the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ([NICE](#)) which published a quality standard on the treatment of *Urinary tract infections in adults* in June 2015. This is part of a suite of materials which includes a quality standard on *Urinary tract infections in infants, children and young people under 16* and information for the public. In addition to describing the NICE quality standard, *The information for the public* provides links to other information sources such as NHS Choices and The Bladder and Bowel Foundation. These resources are available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs90>

Materials specifically for primary care include the Public Health England ([PHE](#)) primary care antibiotic guidance which was updated in June 2015. It provides advice on the treatment of uncomplicated UTIs and on antibiotic choice. It also has advice on treating those with recurrent UTIs. It is available via the PHE and Royal College of General Practitioners ([RCGP](#)) [TARGET](#) (Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools) Antibiotics Toolkit website. Clinical commissioning groups are able to use this guidance to develop local versions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-common-infections-guidance-for-primary-care>

PHE has also developed guidance on diagnosis of UTIs, which is being reviewed this year. This is also available via the PHE or RCGP TARGET website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/urinary-tract-infection-diagnosis>

In addition, the TARGET Antibiotics Toolkit, available on the RCGP website, includes a presentation for primary care staff, and an online course on managing urinary symptoms. These are available at:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/target-antibiotics-toolkit.aspx>