

Questions raised on Antibiotics - June 2014

Accident and Emergency Units

Oral answers to questions – Health

10th June 2014

11:30 am



David Tredinnick (Bosworth, Conservative)

Does my right hon. Friend agree that a critical problem that A and E units will face in the future is antibiotic resistance? Is he aware that the [Science and Technology Committee](#), of which I am a member, has been looking at this issue, and it also interests the Health Committee, of which I am also a member? Can he assure me that he is talking to the [Prime Minister](#) about how to stimulate new antibiotic research, and will he also remember that nature has its own remedies, such as tea tree oil?



Jeremy Hunt (The Secretary of State for Health; South West Surrey, Conservative)

My hon. Friend is right about the seriousness of the issue of antimicrobial resistance. Some 25,000 people die in Europe every year as a result of the failure of antibiotics—more than die in road traffic accidents. I raised the issue at the [World Health Assembly](#) and I have discussed it closely with the [Prime Minister](#).

Livestock: Antibiotics

Environment Food and Rural Affairs

17th June 2014



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of antibiotics used in the **UK** are given to farm animals.



George Eustice (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Camborne and Redruth, Conservative)

Data on antibiotic use in the medical and veterinary sectors are currently collated in different formats, which prevents direct comparison; it is therefore not possible to accurately ascertain what proportion of total antibiotics used in the **UK** are given to farm animals.

In 2012, sales of antibiotic active ingredient authorised for veterinary use (farm and companion animals) totalled 409 tonnes.

Antibiotics

House of Lords

19th June 2014



The Countess of Mar (Crossbench)

To ask **Her Majesty's** Government what has been the total antibiotic use for (1) human medicine in general practice, (2) human medicine in hospitals, and (3) veterinary medicine, for each year since 2004.



Earl Howe (Conservative)

The following table provides information on the number of dispensed prescription items for human antibiotic medicines, in the community, for the period 2004 to 2013.

Number of prescription items for antibiotic medicines written in the United Kingdom and dispensed, in the community, in England ^{1, 2}

Year	Items (000s)
2004	33,119.0
2005	33,825.7
2006	33,627.5
2007	35,429.1
2008	34,801.3
2009	34,182.9
2010	35,302.0
2011	35,333.7
2012	37,307.0
2013	35,429.1

Sources:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system. The Health & Social Care Information Centre, Prescribing and Primary Care Services.

Notes:

1.

As classified within **British National Formulary (BNF)** paragraphs 5.1.1 Penicillins, 5.1.2 Cephalosporins, carbapenems, and other beta-lactams, 5.1.3 Tetracyclines, 5.1.4 Aminoglycosides, 5.1.5 Macrolides, 5.1.6 Clindamycin, 5.1.7 Some other antibacterials, 5.1.11 Metronidazole and tinidazole, 5.1.12 Quinolones.

2.

Prescriptions include those written by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and other non-medical prescribers.

In terms of human antibiotic medicines used in hospitals in England, it is not possible to provide reliable information. Within hospital data, information is reported as 'packs', a measure which is not consistent over time or for aggregation, as one pack could refer to a single vial or to a box of 10 vials, or a bottle of capsules. Therefore to sum all the packs for a range of medicines is inappropriate and any resulting figures will be misleading.

The following table provides information on the volume of antimicrobial sales from Market Authorisation Holders for veterinary medicine.

Sales of animal antibiotics within the United Kingdom ^{1, 2, 3}

Year	Tonnes of active ingredient
2004	453
2005	446
2006	405
2007	387
2008	384
2009	402
2010	447
2011	346
2012	409

Sources:

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes:

1.

It is not currently possible to separate the sales data by country and hence the data provided is for the **UK**.

2.

Sales data was provided voluntarily by veterinary pharmaceutical companies from 1998-2004. Data from 2005 onwards has been collected as a statutory requirement, as set out in the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

3.

2013 data will be published later in the year.