

“Why is Antimicrobial Stewardship Important?”

This 3-minute video gives a contemporary look at the importance of effective antimicrobial stewardship and the recognition of antimicrobial resistance in a wider context as a significant threat to global health.

Whilst this threat is not new, all pathogens can develop resistance, it is clear that the over-use of antibiotics in agriculture and medicine is accelerating the rate at which resistance to antimicrobials develops. This, in turn, is much faster than the rate at which novel antimicrobials can be developed and approved for use.

The occurrence of infectious organisms resistant to most, if not all, available antimicrobial agents is growing disproportionately. With very few novel agents being approved for use, better management of existing resources is needed, with interventions such as the preservation of clean drinking water and halting the ongoing issue of global warming.

It is estimated that as many as 50% of all antimicrobial use is inappropriate. This misuse of antimicrobials can increase the time spent in medical facilities, increase mortality rates, and increase the risk of secondary infection; *C. difficile* being a common example.

The appropriate use of antimicrobials, with appropriate interventions, will preserve antimicrobial efficacy and increase patient safety. The wider impact of antibiotic use must also be considered.

Antimicrobial stewardship is a key factor in improving patient outcomes and reducing incidence of resistance. Everyone can be good antimicrobial stewards.