

## Priorities for Action

The following are some suggested solutions to the problem of antibiotic resistance.

### Priority 1: Reduce antibiotic use in human medicine

Antibiotics are too often prescribed unnecessarily in hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics, and urgent care centers. This is often attributed to a lack of fast, accurate methods for diagnosis, as well as perceived patient demand for "something" when they are sick. Increasingly, hospitals are being required to participate in stewardship programs. These stewardship programs are designed to reduce unnecessary use. Patient education and improved doctor-patient communication could also help reduce unneeded prescriptions.

### Priority 2: Improve animal antibiotic use

Antibiotics are widely given to farm animals used for food. Farm animals often live in close quarters. Farmers may use antibiotics as a preventive measure to avoid losing many animals at once to fast-spreading infections. Interestingly, antibiotics can actually make some animals grow larger, making them more valuable on the market. Overall, giving their animals antibiotics can help farmers grow more food more cheaply. This widespread use of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic-resistant populations that can spread from the animals to humans and cause infections. Stronger regulations on how antibiotics can be used in animals could greatly reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance.

### Priority 3: Fix the broken antibiotic market

Even with the appropriate use of antibiotics, bacteria will continue to develop resistance, and new drugs will be needed to treat infections. Unfortunately, there are not enough antibiotics in development to keep pace with evolving bacteria. Companies that develop drugs are limiting or stopping their investments in antibiotic research. This is because the money they make on each new drug isn't enough to make up for the money they spend on research. The money they make on new antibiotics is limited precisely because responsible use is limited—companies don't want to sell something that people try not to use. Government funding for research into new drugs could help. This funding could help companies make up the costs of research and development, enabling them to get new drugs to the market.

#### Source:

Talkington, Kathy. "How to Combat Antibiotic Resistance." November 13, 2019. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/11/13/how-to-combat-antibiotic-resistance-5-priorities-for-2020>

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
<b>Equity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who might benefit more or less from this solution?</li> <li>Does this solution help everyone equitably?</li> </ul>			
<b>Bias</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who might have a personal or economic reason to promote this solution?</li> </ul>			
<b>Perspectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would some people like this solution more than others?</li> <li>How does my own personal perspective influence how I evaluate these solutions?</li> </ul>			