

Patient burden associated with acute & chronic resistant infections



Inspiring stakeholders to take action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) starts with communicating the current and future burden of infection



While many stakeholders are aware of the acute, life-threatening presentation of resistant infections, there is also a significant and under-appreciated burden of chronic stable or recurrent infections



Taking a broader view provides opportunities to further emphasize the burden of AMR and improve the lives of patients with infectious diseases

		Acute AMR infections	Chronic AMR infections
Patient burden	Clinical characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → People living with short-term infections → Hospitalisation with contact isolation; often imminent mortality risk → Infection may be resistant to all available options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → People living with long-lasting stable or recurring infections → Frequent appointments and hospitalisations → Infection can be managed with antibiotics but may become resistant, posing risks to the patient and the community
	Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Associated risks of contact isolation include isolation, loneliness, anxiety and depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Persistent stress and fear about number of remaining antibiotic options → Long-term marginalisation, isolation and stigma
	Healthcare interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Uncertainty around disease status → Limited HCP engagement, increasing feelings of confinement and loneliness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Disjointed care and limited consultation and follow-up information → Management by non-specialist HCPs, with limited AMR knowledge; patient concerns may be overlooked
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Potential work disruption associated with hospitalisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ongoing work disruption and high medical expenses

As with acute infections, new antibiotic options are key to addressing the needs of chronic infection patients

SOLUTIONS

More commercial incentives*

More investment

More antibiotic options

IMPACTS

Acute and chronic patients more likely to have an effective therapy available

Acute patients have better outcomes, can be discharged sooner and have a lower risk of becoming chronic/recurring

Chronic patients have a lower risk of running out of options and may experience less frequent recurrences

However, we also need to engage stakeholders to improve awareness of all types of resistant infections and improve patient management

SOLUTIONS

More stakeholder awareness of patient burden

More research on patient experience

More implementation of patient-centric management protocols

IMPACTS

Acute and chronic patients have more positive interactions with HCPs

Acute patients can manage uncertainty, fear and isolation more effectively

Chronic patients experience more coordinated care, and feel supported and informed

*For more information, see CRA infographic "Policy solutions to commercial challenges in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance"
Source: Whittaker et al (2023). *Global Public Health*, 18(1); Hamilton et al (2024). *Sci Rep* 14

CRA's in-house anti-infectives experts are available to guide your asset through the changing anti-infectives landscape, with expertise across Pricing & Market Access, Commercial Strategy & Business Development and Policy. Contact Steve Kelly (skelly@crai.com, Initiative Lead) or Hannah Armstrong (harmstrong@crai.com, Policy Lead) to learn more.

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