

SBAR: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE & THE ROLE OF FOOD PURCHASING IN ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

S	<p>While Advocate has a robust antimicrobial stewardship program for prescribing practices, the organization continues to purchase meat, poultry, seafood and dairy products that are produced with large amounts of non-therapeutic antibiotics. With mounting evidence linking antibiotics in animal production to antibiotic-resistant infections in people^{2,3}, this creates an inconsistent approach to antimicrobial stewardship throughout the Advocate system and its vision to provide the best health outcomes for its patients.</p>
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antimicrobial resistance is an emerging public health threat around the world. Some bacteria have become highly resistant to antibiotics, leaving infections with these bacteria virtually untreatable.¹ • According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 2 million people in the United States acquire infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria – and approximately 23,000 people die because of these infections.¹ Antimicrobial resistance is a significant patient safety issue. • The use (and overuse) of antibiotics is the most important factor leading to antibiotic resistance.¹ • A majority of medically important antibiotics sold in the United States are used in food-animals, primarily for non-therapeutic purposes.¹ • There is a large body of research and expert consensus (Food & Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the US Department of Agriculture) linking the overuse of antibiotics in food-animal production to antibiotic-resistant infections in people.^{2,3}
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among many others, the following organizations have advocated for the judicious (non-therapeutic) use of antibiotics in food animal production:⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• World Health Organization <li style="width: 50%;">• American Public Health Association <li style="width: 50%;">• American Medical Association <li style="width: 50%;">• Infectious Diseases Society of America <li style="width: 50%;">• American Academy of Pediatrics <li style="width: 50%;">• Association for Professionals in Infection Control <li style="width: 50%;">• American Nurses Association <li style="width: 50%;">• Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists • While the FDA has issued draft guidance for the judicious use of antibiotics used in farming, these guidelines are not mandatory. Most industrial farms continue to use large amounts of antibiotics non-therapeutically for food animal production. • In addition to our current antimicrobial stewardship practices, Advocate Health Care could implement a more comprehensive and consistent approach to antimicrobial stewardship by instituting a preferential food purchasing policy for antibiotic-free meat, poultry, dairy, and seafood products. • Buying meat, poultry, dairy, and seafood products produced with fewer antibiotics also helps expand the market demand for these products, which stimulates production and makes these products more readily available to the community, advancing good antimicrobial stewardship practices far beyond the walls of our hospitals.
R	<p>The AIMMC Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee recommends the adoption of a system-wide food procurement policy that includes the preferential purchasing of meat, poultry, seafood, and dairy products produced without the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics.</p>

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References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013*. Accessed October 21, 2013 from <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>.
2. Pew Charitable Trusts. *Antibiotic Resistance and Food Animal Production: A Bibliography of Scientific Studies (1969-2013)*. Accessed October 21, 2013 from http://www.pewhealth.org/uploadedFiles/PHG/Content_Level_Pages/Issue_Briefs/HHIFBibliographyFinal%20with%20TOC%20_050113.pdf.
3. US House, Committee of Energy and Commerce. *Antibiotic Resistance and the Use of Antibiotics in Animal Agriculture*. Hearing, July 14, 2010 (Serial No. 111-144). Washington: Government Printing Office, 2013.
4. Natural Resources Defense Council. *Positions of Medical & Scientific Organizations on Antibiotic Use in Livestock Operations*. Accessed October 21, 2013 from <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/saving-anitbiotics-med-quotes-FS.pdf>.