

Committee B: Theme Guide

Topic: Balancing Sustainable Antibiotic Access and Equitable Antimicrobial Stewardship

The Challenge: We face a critical balancing act: ensuring everyone can access life-saving antimicrobials when needed while preventing overuse that drives resistance. Both sides matter equally – inadequate access costs lives today, while inappropriate use threatens treatment options tomorrow.

Key Issues to Consider:

Access Issues:

- What barriers prevent people from getting needed antimicrobials (antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, and antiparasitic)?
- How do these barriers differ between regions and economic contexts?
- How can we ensure access to newer or alternative treatments when resistance develops?

Appropriate Use:

- How can we promote appropriate use of all types of antimicrobials?
- What diagnostics help determine which specific antimicrobial is needed?
- How can we reduce unnecessary use across human and animal sectors?

Finding the Balance:

- What strategies improve access without increasing unnecessary use?
- How can we tailor approaches for different antimicrobials with different resistance patterns?
- What systems help track both access and appropriate use?

Practical Solutions

- What successful approaches have worked in similar contexts?
- How might regulations differ for various antimicrobial classes?
- What role can community pharmacies play in balancing access and stewardship?

Tips for Your Resolutions: The goal is ensuring everyone who needs antimicrobial treatment can get the right medicine at the right time, while preserving these precious resources for future generations

When drafting your resolutions, consider:

- Addressing different types of antimicrobials, which may require different approaches
- Both immediate actions and longer-term strategies
- The specific needs of vulnerable populations
- Cultural influences on medication use and expectations
- Economic factors that affect both access and use patterns