ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
Combating a serious threat to public and animal health

25,000 people die each year in the EU from infections caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

Antimicrobials are medicines that destroy or inactivate microbes, including bacteria.

The best known antimicrobials are antibiotics that are used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Bacteria evolve and can become resistant to existing antibiotics.

If we do not use the antibiotics we have prudently and develop new treatments, common infections could turn deadly again.

EMA’s response to protect patients

- Speed up development of new treatments
- Provide a faster route to develop new treatments against multi-drug resistant bacteria
- Encourage new approaches like use of bacteriophages (viruses that kill bacteria)
- Bring experts together to explore new and better treatments
- Shape strategies for prudent use of available antibiotics
- Inform doctors, pharmacists, vets, patients and farmers
- Advise policymakers on antibiotic use and resistance
- Survey sales of veterinary antibiotics across Europe
- Analyse data on use of antibiotics in humans and animals and links to resistance
- Collect data to guide policy and research

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is an EU Agency that provides independent, science-based recommendations on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines to protect human and animal health.

For more information www.ema.europa.eu

An agency of the European Union

@EMA_News