

Antimicrobial use in European hospitals and long-term care facilities

Antimicrobials – mostly antibiotics – are commonly used in hospitals and long-term care facilities for the treatment or the prevention of infections. Some of this use of antimicrobials may be unnecessary, thus further contributing to the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance. In 2016 and 2017, ECDC coordinated two European point prevalence surveys in acute care hospitals and in long-term care facilities, respectively.



Antimicrobial use in: Hospitals



1 / 3
patients received at least one antimicrobial on any given day.

Surgical prophylaxis

Antimicrobials are sometimes given to patients to prevent infections in relation with surgical procedures.



1 in 2
surgical prophylaxis courses were prescribed for **more than one day**.



One dose
is usually sufficient for surgical prophylaxis. Prolonged surgical prophylaxis represents a significant source of unnecessary antimicrobial use in hospitals.

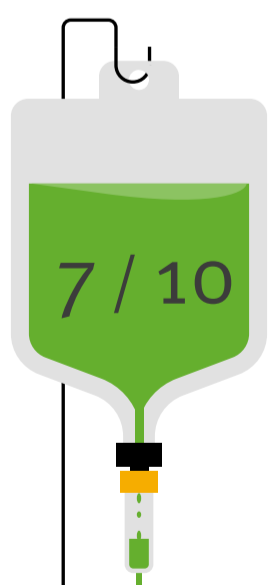
Medical prophylaxis



1 / 10 antimicrobial prescriptions

were for medical prophylaxis, for which there only is a limited number of indications.

A proportion of antimicrobial prescriptions for medical prophylaxis may therefore represent unnecessary use.



Parenteral use

7 out of 10 antimicrobials were administered parenterally. Parenteral-to-oral switch was reported in only 4% of the prescriptions of parenteral antimicrobials.

Broad-spectrum antibiotics

The proportion of broad-spectrum antibiotics used varied from 16% to 62% across Europe. The wide variation in their use indicates the need to review their indications in many countries and hospitals.

Broad-spectrum antibiotics are not always necessary and their use drives antimicrobial resistance.

16% - 62%

