



MINISTÈRE
DES SOLIDARITÉS
ET DE LA SANTÉ

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

FRENCH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: **INNOVATIVE MEASURES**

MAY 2021 - Actions in Human Health



ILS SONT
PRÉCIEUX,
UTILISONS-LES
MIEUX.



Summary

The interministerial national action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance	3
1st strategic objective:	
Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance	4
2nd strategic objective:	
Strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research	5
3rd strategic objective:	
Reduce the incidence of infections	6
4th strategic objective:	
Optimize the use of antimicrobial agents.....	7
5th strategic objective:	
Improve innovation (new antibiotics, diagnostics, vaccines and other interventions) and maintain access to existing antibiotics	8

The interministerial national action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance



The first Interministerial Committee for Health was specifically devoted to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In November 2016, the French government adopted the [interministerial national action plan](#), using a One Health approach. This action plan is organized along five objectives:

- 1. Raising awareness among the general public and healthcare professionals;
- 2. Education;
- 3. Research and innovation;
- 4. Monitoring and surveillance;
- 5. Interministerial and international actions governance;

Three sectoral action plans in Human Health, Animal Health and the Environment

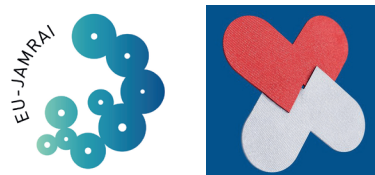


The interministerial roadmap to tackle antimicrobial resistance is implemented in each sector through three action plans:

- In human health, through the [“Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections National Programme”](#) (PROPIAS);
- In animal health, the 2017-2021 Plan [“Ecoantibio 2”](#);
- And concerning the environment, there is the 2020-2024 [“National Health and Environment Plan”](#) (PNSE4).

The [2020 annual report](#) summarizes the main actions conducted in human health within the framework of the inter-ministerial roadmap to tackle antimicrobial resistance. Some [innovative actions](#) are presented each year in French and English in a short leaflet.

France coordinates the European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI)



France coordinated the 3-year EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections ([EU-JAMRAI](#)), co-funded by the European Commission, launched in September 2017 in Paris, which ended in February 2021. The main project coordinator was the French National Institute for Health Research (Inserm), supported by the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health. The Ministry was in charge of the Work Package “Integration in national policies & sustainability”. Inserm co-coordinated, with Norway, the research and innovation Work Package.

The first global symbol to raise awareness on the threat of antibiotic resistance was revealed on 10th November 2020 by the Joint Action EU-JAMRAI. This [symbol](#) was selected among 600 proposals, following a competition open to all. It was designed as a visual tool to raise awareness on this global challenge. It can be easily crafted and used by all.

The Joint Action produced [eight policy briefs](#) that have been widely disseminated among policy makers and stakeholders. They are available online in four languages (English, German, Spanish and French).

- [The layman report](#)



1ST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance

Strengthening the training of healthcare students and raising awareness of the public



In France, a health service-training programme for healthcare students has been implemented since 2018. In 2020, the topic “Prevention of Infections and of Antimicrobial Resistance” with a One Health perspective, was identified as a national priority of this programme. The objective is for healthcare students (medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, midwifery, nursing and physiotherapy) to organize actions to raise awareness of the public (e.g. children, students, elderly people) on this topic. In order to help students implement actions on the prevention of infections and of antimicrobial resistance, educational resources have been produced and are available on the following websites : [e-Bug](#), [RéPias](#) and [Santé publique France](#).

Strengthening the training of healthcare professionals



The [French national agency for professional training programmes](#) develops professional and inter-professional trainings through calls for proposals, in order to select and fund actions corresponding to the identified quality and care safety needs. Within this framework, a 3-year budget is dedicated to the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) topic for 2021-2023 (7 million euros for 2021). These calls for proposals are essential to involve professionals on key public health issues such as AMR.

A social marketing campaign for healthcare professionals and the general public



Santé publique France is developing a nationwide social marketing campaign that will be rolled out in November 2021 for healthcare professionals and early 2022 for the general public. The actions will be continued during the up-coming years. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness among citizens and healthcare professionals about causes and consequences of AMR and to empower them to take action. Several preliminary studies have been carried out to better define targets and key messages to change general public and healthcare professionals’ behaviour regarding antimicrobial stewardship.

“Antibio’Malin”: a digital resource to raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance among the general public



In November 2019, the Public Health Information Service (SPIS) launched the [“Antibio’Malin” resource on the Santé.fr website](#). This digital resource offers the general public simple and short information on antibiotics available in the outpatient setting as well as the most common infections. Antibio’Malin is regularly updated: in 2020, Covid-19 was included. The site has also become more user-friendly and easier to navigate. Since its launch, Antibio’Malin has been consulted nearly 65,000 times.





2ND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research

The RePias and Santé publique France: key surveillance actors



The French network for the Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HCAI) gathers five national missions for the surveillance and prevention of HCAI and AMR, led by Santé publique France. The objectives of these missions are to produce surveillance data on HCAI, AMR and antibiotic consumption. The five missions are:

- The **PRIMO** mission, for the surveillance and prevention of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections in the community and in nursing homes;
- The **SPARES** mission, for the surveillance and prevention of antimicrobial resistance in hospitals;
- The **SPICMI** mission, for the surveillance and prevention of HCAI in surgery and interventional medicine;
- The **SPIADI** mission, for the surveillance and prevention of invasive devices' infections;
- The **MATIS** mission, providing support to the other four missions.

All data produced by the five missions are accessible to all on the **Geodes** website.

Antimicrobial resistance research programme and funding



Funding for research on AMR, based on a One Health approach, is reinforced by a strategic plan developed at European level through the JPI-AMR (Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance) and in France within the **priority research programme** coordinated by the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm). Within this framework, **three calls for structuring**

projects were launched in 2021 to develop platforms and observatories dedicated to AMR. The National Research Agency also funded **11 research projects** for a total amount of 25 million euros following a **call for expressions of interest**. The originality of the French research approach is detailed in an **article** published in a prestigious international scientific journal.

National Antibiotic Resistance Research website

Inserm has developed the National Antibiotic Resistance Research interactive website, mapping the French research forces with a One Health perspective. It identifies academic and industrial key players, networks and observatories as well as research projects on AMR. **The national antibiotic resistance interface** brings together all the information in terms of research on AMR (national database, news, priority research programme, etc.).





3RD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Reduce the incidence of infections

The RePias and Santé publique France: key actors for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections



As mentioned above, the RePias, which is a network constituted of five national missions of the regional centers for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (CPias), coordinates national actions to prevent healthcare-associated infections, offering in particular training and communication tools for professionals and the general public.

The certification of hospitals for the quality of care



HAUTE AUTORITÉ DE SANTÉ

This is an **independent and mandatory evaluation** procedure of the level of quality and safety of care in public and private hospitals. It takes place every four years. The new certification of hospitals for the quality of care was **issued in 2020**. Certain criteria target the prevention of **healthcare-associated infections** and of **antimicrobial resistance**.

Health care quality and safety indicators



HAUTE AUTORITÉ DE SANTÉ

The HAS provides health care quality and safety indicators (QSI). These indicators have been developed with healthcare professionals, patients and service users as tools for improving the quality of care and patient safety in health care facilities. They are also used for the **certification procedure**, for public dissemination on **Scope Santé** and for the pay-for-performance system (e.g. IFAQ). Some indicators used in hospitals cover the AMR and HCAI topics, for example, the indicator “Prevalence of patients with an antibiotic treatment of 7 days

or less for a lower respiratory infection” or the indicator “Good practices in complementary contact precautions”.

Financial Incentives for Quality Improvement Indicators (IFAQ)



The quality and safety of care is one of the priorities of the French national health strategy 2017-2022. Since 2016, the Financial Incentive for Quality Improvement indicators (IFAQ) have introduced a quality-related component into the hospitals’ funding (pay-for-performance system).

In the upcoming years, additional indicators concerning the prevention of AMR might be added to the system.





4TH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Optimize the use of antimicrobial agents

Regional Organisation for antimicrobial stewardship



An **instruction** (legal text) to Regional Health Agencies (ARS) and a **technical guide** were published in May 2020. They recommend the implementation and/or reinforcement of regional antimicrobial stewardship centers in all French regions, with a dedicated budget. These centers provide expertise and support in all the settings (community, nursing homes, hospitals), including a strategic mission on antimicrobial stewardship, and the coordination and animation of networks of healthcare professionals in charge of coordinating antimicrobial stewardship programmes. These centers must work in synergy with the regional centers for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (CPIas) and will be made up of at least one infectious diseases physician and one general practitioner. The instruction also recommends implementing multidisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship teams, who should coordinate actions in all settings (community, nursing homes, hospitals).

Recommendations on short durations of antibiotic treatment



HAUTE AUTORITÉ DE SANTÉ

The Haute Autorité de Santé, in partnership with the Société de Pathologie Infectieuse de Langue Française (SPILF) and other relevant professional societies, contributes to promoting the shortest possible duration of antibiotic treatments to tackle AMR. Guidelines will be finalized in 2021 focussing on upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, skin and soft tissue infections, urethritis and cervicitis, as well as non-severe acute diverticulitis.

Professional recommendations on antibiotic prescriptions during telemedicine consultations



Due to the large increase in telemedicine consultations, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health asked the General Medicine College and the Paediatrics professional organisation to produce recommendations to promote antimicrobial stewardship principles during telemedicine activities for common acute infections in primary care. These professional recommendations were **published** in February 2021 on both organisations' websites and may help guide practices.





5TH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Improve innovation (new antibiotics, diagnostics, vaccines and other interventions) and maintain access to existing antibiotics

Securing antibiotics supply



In the event of a shortage or risk of shortage of an antibiotic, the National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM) defines and coordinates the actions that must be taken by pharmaceutical companies to secure access to these drugs for patients. In practice, the ANSM seeks to secure the supply of medicines of major therapeutic interest, which include many antibiotics. In this context, the ANSM is also responsible for informing healthcare professionals and patients about shortages as well as available alternatives.

In addition, the ANSM is fully committed to the implementation of the ministerial roadmap presented in 2019 to tackle drugs' shortages and improve the availability of medicines in France, with a particular focus on antibiotics due to the number of supply tensions and shortages observed each year, particularly for injectable products.

Discussions with the private sector to encourage innovation and maintain existing antibiotics on the market



These discussions with industry aim to:

- Stimulate innovation and investment, and maintain new products and existing antibiotics on the market;
- Improve the use of in vitro diagnostics. There are many diagnostic tests available for human health. These technologies could contribute to tackling AMR by optimizing treatments, but also by reducing transmission.

Discussions are underway with the public and private sectors' stakeholders to come up with concrete measures, within the framework of the Strategic Industry Contract, launched in February 2019 and extended until 2022.

The French government is committed to ensuring the availability of antibiotics



A three-year project, part of the Structural Reform Support Programme, co-financed by the European Union and with a "One Health" approach started in November 2020. The aim of the project is to identify and implement pilot measures in France to tackle the root causes of lack of availability and shortages of off-patent antibiotics used in human and veterinary medicine. The programme also aims to protect the environment and takes into account the European and national regulatory contexts. The European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) and the WHO provide technical assistance to the French Government with the participation of five ministries and two national agencies.

European meeting on the availability of antibiotics



The French Ministry of Solidarity and Health organized a technical meeting on the availability of existing antibiotics in human health on 24th November 2020. The aim of the meeting was to raise awareness among European Member States on antibiotics shortages, and to promote collaboration and best practice sharing.

