Antimicrobial resistance

PO - (8470) - FIRST INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY ACTION ON AMR

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Background
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most significant threats to public health globally. It will worsen without concerted efforts to spur the development of new antibiotics and ensure access and stewardship of existing ones. Pharmaceutical companies have a critical role to play in these efforts. The Access to Medicine Foundation developed the AMR Benchmark to measure how pharmaceutical companies are responding to AMR and to share and push best practices within the industry.

Methods
The Benchmark assessed 30 pharmaceutical companies’ AMR activities in 106 low- and middle-income countries. Survey data on company activities were collected across three research areas (RA): Research & Development; Manufacturing & Production; and Access & Stewardship. For each RA, specific metrics were developed to evaluate company performance. These metrics were defined through consultation with experts working across the AMR field and represent a broad consensus on where companies can and should be taking action to limit AMR.

Results
The Benchmark found that there are good practices in all RAs. Out of 276 R&D projects targeting infectious diseases, 175 target pathogens identified as priority by WHO/CDC. Of these, 88 are in preclinical stage, 87 are in clinical stage, and 54 target gram-negative bacteria. Out of 28 antibiotics in late clinical stage, only two have access and stewardship plans in place. Nearly half of companies evaluated are involved in AMR surveillance and eight companies set limits on antibiotic wastewater discharge. Lastly, four companies separate sales agents’ bonuses from antibiotics sales volumes to reduce overuse of antibiotics.

Conclusion
The Benchmark identified the good ideas being implemented by companies to limit AMR and mapped opportunities to amplify current efforts. Although companies are taking some action, the R&D pipeline needs to be further strengthened and candidates reaching late clinical stage must be supported by concrete plans to ensure access and stewardship.