

# FRENCH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE : INNOVATIVE MEASURES

MAY 2020

*Actions in Human Health*



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# FRENCH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE : INNOVATIVE MEASURES

## 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 roadmap is organized along five objectives: (I) Raising awareness among the general public and healthcare professionals, (II) Training (III) Research and innovation, (IV) Monitoring and surveillance and (V) 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). Since 2017, the programme includes actions of the interministerial national action plan.
- In animal health, the Plan “Ecoantibio 2” is implemented for the period 2017-2021;
- And concerning the environment there is the “National Health and Environment Plan”.

## Summary

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France is actively engaged in the European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI)

France is coordinating the 3-year EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI), co-funded by the European Commission, that was launched in September 2017 in Paris. The main coordinator is the French National Institute for Health Research (Inserm), supported by the French Ministry of Solidarities and Health. The Ministry is in charge of the Work Package “Integration in national policies & sustainability”. On the other hand, the Inserm is co-coordinating, with Norway, the research and innovation.

## 1<sup>st</sup> strategic objective : Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance



### Antibio'Malin, an online resource available for all

Antibio'Malin was launched on 18th November 2019. It presents practical information on all available antibiotics and common infections. The main goal is to improve awareness of the general public and to provide key information to tackle antimicrobial resistance. This resource could also help healthcare professionals in their communication with their patients. The

website [Santé.fr](https://www.santefr.fr) hosting Antibio'Malin is an online educational resource on health, coordinated by the Ministry of Solidarities and Health.



### e-Bug educational resources for the healthcare students' health service

In France, a health service-training programme for healthcare students has been deployed since 2018 throughout the country. The objective is two-fold: on one hand, to train future healthcare professionals in the principles of health prevention and promotion, and on the other hand, to address territorial inequalities by mobilizing students into concrete actions towards the most vulnerable population. One of the training module is to improve

awareness and to provide key information to tackle antimicrobial resistance, using tools such as e-Bug. E-Bug provides online educational resources for all healthcare students on AMR within the One Health approach. It gives information on micro-organisms, infections' transmission, prevention and treatment.

### Strengthening of the initial and continuing training of healthcare professionals

Core competencies on AMR for healthcare professionals (dentists, medical doctors, midwives, nurses and pharmacists) are currently being defined, including both infection prevention and control, and antibiotic stewardship principles. They will be used to strengthen the initial and continuing training of these healthcare professionals.

Tackling antimicrobial resistance is also one of the national priorities for the healthcare professional's continuing training programme. Moreover, the French national agency for professional training programmes launched a call for proposals on antimicrobial resistance for the period 2020-2022.

Links :

- [Decree of July 31, 2019](#)

- [Instruction of July 16, 2018](#)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic objective : Strengthen the knowledge through surveillance and research



Santé publique France launched GEODES, a cartographic observatory for health data

The GEODES website helps to visualize the epidemiology of some infections, antibiotic use and resistance data through maps, graphs and interactive tables. Data are coming from the national health data system and from the ConsoRes tool for hospitals. Santé publique France, with the support of the national missions PRIMO and SPARES analyzes and publishes these data.

### A yearly One Health report



Each November, Santé publique France publishes an annual report on the prevention of antimicrobial resistance, on antibiotic use and resistance, within a One Health perspective. The National Agency of sanitary security on food, environment and work (ANSES), the National Agency on Security and Medicines (ANSM), the Inserm, CNAM (French national health insurance fund) and their partners, as well as the relevant Ministries are also involved. Each year, it updates the available information for all settings (community, nursing homes, hospitals) in human health, animal health and the environment. It also provides with an international overview of the topic.

### Antimicrobial resistance research programme and funding



LE GRAND PLAN  
D'INVESTISSEMENT

Several initiatives are helping to strengthen and to structure the funding for research on antimicrobial resistance, using a One Health approach, in particular : the JPI-AMR (Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance) at international level, the European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare associated infections at EU level, and, at national level, the priority research programme, coordinated by the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic objective : Reduce the incidence of infections



A national approach looking for synergy between IPC and ABS activities

The national strategy aiming at preventing antibiotic resistance is based on two complementary pillars: infection prevention and control (IPC) and antibiotic stewardship (ABS). This synergistic approach is implemented at a regional level in all settings (hospitals, nursing homes and the community) by the Regional Health Agencies (ARS).

The ARS mobilizes and coordinates all the regional actors involved in the fight against antibiotic resistance with the support of two main actors:

- Regional centers for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (CPIas), responsible for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and controlling the cross-transmission of infectious agents. They lead the networks of IPC professionals (IPC teams...).
- Regional ABS centers are in charge of antibiotic stewardship. They lead the networks of health professionals in charge of ABS (ABS teams...).

The ARS ensures the synergy between the two centers, that can also collaborate for some actions, in particular regarding education or communication. In hospitals, this synergy should also be facilitated, with close collaboration between IPC and ABS teams.

### 4<sup>th</sup> strategic objective : Optimize the use of antimicrobial agents



Nationwide access to «Rapid Diagnostic Tests» (RDTs) for pharyngitis in community pharmacies

RDTs are used to determine the viral or bacterial origin of sore throat. In 80% of cases, sore throat is viral and therefore does not require an antibiotic treatment. RDTs are used to identify a bacterial sore throat

for which an antibiotic is indicated.

For several years, the National health Insurance has been providing RDTs free of charge to doctors (including general practitioners and pediatricians). In addition to that, RDTs can now be reimbursed when done by a community pharmacist.

Two additional clinical pathways have been implemented:

- The patient goes to the pharmacy without prior medical consultation. He/she will be referred to his/her doctor if the result of the RDT (performed by the pharmacist) is positive;
- The patient goes to the pharmacy once the doctor has diagnosed a pharyngitis, with a conditional dispensation prescription. If the RDT (performed by the pharmacist) is positive, the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor will be delivered to the patient.



An innovative project to improve the antibiotic prescription profiles of general practitioners

This project involves the Ministry of Solidarities and Health, the Interministerial Direction for Public Transformation (DITP), the National Health Insurance, Santé publique France and the College of General Medicine. It aims to optimize the personalized profiles of general practitioners regarding their antibiotics' prescriptions, relying on a team of behavioral scientists. The goal is to help doctors to improve their antibiotic prescribing practices.

## 5<sup>th</sup> strategic objective : Improve innovation (new medicines, diagnostics tools, vaccines and other interventions) and maintain access to existing antibiotics



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

These discussions with industry aim to:

- Guarantee access to old essential antibiotics;
- Develop new products (antibiotics, alternatives to antibiotics, vaccines and diagnostics) meeting public health needs to tackle antibiotic resistance;
- Facilitate the introduction of and maintain new products on the market, while promoting a responsible and sustainable use.

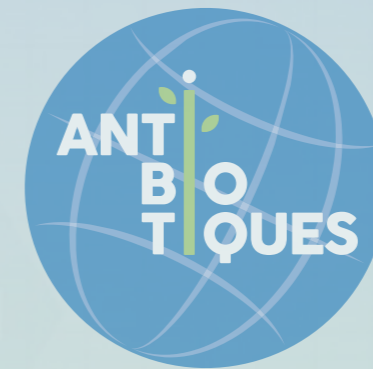
Public and private sector stakeholders are working together to develop a strategy within two years and to define mechanisms that could be implemented. This work is part of the [Strategic Sector Contract](#), launched in February 2019.



### Medicines shortage roadmap: a national plan to ensure the availability of antibiotics

To fight against antibiotic resistance, it is necessary to ensure the availability of a diversified therapeutic arsenal, in order to target a variety of diseases while preserving the effectiveness of existing products. Fighting antibiotics' shortages is therefore essential.

The goal of the [2019-2022 Roadmap to tackle medicines' shortages and enhance the availability of medicines in France](#), coordinated by the Ministry of Solidarities and Health, is to promote transparency and quality of information. It also acts across the entire drug process to prevent more effectively medicines' shortages and to better coordinate the French government's actions, both at national and European levels.



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More information available on :  
[antibiotiques.gouv.fr](http://antibiotiques.gouv.fr)

