How Diagnostic Tests Help Combat Antibiotic Resistance

- **Improve** patient care by optimizing antibiotic use
- **Decrease** overall medical costs through shorter length of stays & optimized infection control programs
- **Help** ensure doctors prescribe the correct antibiotic at the right time & dose
- **Improve** judicious use of antibiotics
- **Reduce** misuse of antibiotics
- **Identify** drug-resistant organisms to enable patient isolation, decontamination, & reduce spread of infections
Treating Antibiotic Resistant Infections is Expensive

The annual costs of antibiotic-resistant infections in the U.S. range as high as $20 billion in direct healthcare costs, with additional costs to society for lost productivity as high as $35 billion a year.

In many cases, antibiotic-resistant infections lead to:

- Prolonged and/or costlier treatments;
- Need for additional diagnostic testing;
- Extended hospital or rehabilitation stays;
- Additional doctor visits; and
- Greater disability and death compared with infections that are easily treatable with antibiotics.
How Diagnostic Tests Help Combat Antibiotic Resistance

Diagnostic tests can help physicians decide whether an antibiotic will cure an infection and which one will work best.

They can be used to...
How Healthcare Professionals Can Help Combat Antibiotic Resistance

- Talk to your laboratories to determine what diagnostic tests are available, the usual turn-around times of results, and the strengths and limitations of those assays.

- Use diagnostic tests to inform treatment decisions, prescribing practices, and guide infection control decisions.

- Ask policymakers and private investors to invest in the development of diagnostic tests.

- Learn more about available diagnostic tests and best practices that may not be in your laboratory but available through reference laboratories.

- Negotiate with health insurance companies for reimbursement of diagnostic tests based on fair-market rates.

- Support antibiotic stewardship and hospital/clinic infection control programs.

- Explain to patients the importance of only taking an antibiotic when necessary.

- You can help preserve the efficacy of antibiotics! Learn more about available diagnostic tests and best practices that may not be in your laboratory but available through reference laboratories.
Using antibiotics unnecessarily or inappropriately can drive the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria that can significantly complicate management of infectious diseases.

Healthcare professionals can help combat antibiotic resistance with the use of diagnostic tests.
Why Taking Antibiotics If You Don’t Really Need Them is Bad for You and Your Family

It’s true that antibiotics can fight a wide range of germs that make you sick, but antibiotics aren’t always the answer. Using them when they aren’t needed is really bad for you and those around you. Here’s why:

- Kills your good bacteria, which could make you get even sicker.
- Could make you up to 10 times more likely to contract a potentially deadly infections.
- Could cause an allergic reaction that may require going to the emergency room.
- You could pass on resistant bacteria to the elderly or immunocompromised.
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