Global threat of antibiotic resistance requires healthcare provider vigilance

Antibiotic resistance is a growing global health threat. A recent report projects that by the year 2050, as many as 10 million people could die from drug-resistant bacteria annually. Even now, a troubling amount of deaths occur due to it - in India, 58,000 newborns die annually because of drug-resistant bacterial infections, and even healthy adults are at risk for severe consequences of these infections. (Sources: New York Times, Forbes)

Despite efforts to manage resistance by limiting the use of antibiotics, more than two million people in the United States are infected with drug-resistant bacteria every year. Overuse and antibiotic resistance in other parts of the world threaten the rest of the globe. (Sources: World Health Organization, Eurosurveillance)

Because diagnostic tests that identify bacterial are time-consuming, doctors often prescribe broad-spectrum antibiotics instead of targeted treatment approaches. New technology is being developed to improve diagnostics, including methods that identify resistance in only three to four hours. The approach requires sophisticated tools, greatly limiting its use in hospitals and clinics. However, with further innovation, it holds great promise for the future. (Source: Scientific American)
Develop and implement antibiotic stewardship programs for your facility that follow best practices. The CDC has resources to help.

Create policies that discourage the overuse or inappropriate use of antibiotics, such as prescribing them for non-bacterial infections or when not needed. (Source: CDC)

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TUESDAY

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