MedTech Europe
from diagnosis to cure

Safeguarding Europe's Future: A Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)

There are over 2 million medical technologies that are used to **save and improve people's lives** – from prevention to diagnosis and cure – while also improving **quality of care** and supporting **efficient and sustainable healthcare systems. Our industry is committed to supporting effective responses to key health challenges** through innovation and partnership with policymakers, including in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

The critical role of medical technologies in fighting AMR and HAIs

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) form a **major and growing public health threat across Europe:** AMR results in **35,000 deaths** in the EU annually,[1] while HAIs account **for 70% of the AMR burden**[2] and infect **4.3 million patients**[3] each year – 1 in 10 patients. AMR and HAIs **complicate the treatment of major diseases**, such as cancer and diabetes, and **undermine the effectiveness of modern medicine**.[5]

Medical technologies play a critical role in addressing the challenge of AMR and HAIs:

- **Prevention:** Devices and solutions like microbial screening, antimicrobial dressings with active or nonactive agents, automated environmental disinfection, and surveillance software help prevent and control HAIs throughout the patient pathway.
- **Detection & Diagnosis:** Rapid and molecular diagnostics enable appropriate and targeted antibiotic use – especially critical in community care settings where most antibiotics are prescribed.
- **Treatment & Surveillance:** Clinical surveillance systems, stewardship platforms, and integrated data tools support appropriate prescribing, monitor resistance, and help manage outbreaks.
- **Supporting Innovation:** Advanced diagnostics and drug discovery technologies are essential for the development of new antimicrobials and therapies.

The medical technology industry in Europe

38,000
medical technology companies in Europe
90% SMEs

930,000+
employees[5]

€170 billion
market

The industry is a crucial **driver for Europe's economic well-being**, providing quality employment and substantially contributing to Europe's trade balance.

These contributions result in:

- **Fewer infections and improved patient outcomes**[6,7]: *The OECD identifies antimicrobial stewardship and improved hygiene, supported by medical technologies, as the most effective measures to reduce antibiotic-resistant infections. Implementing a One Health policy package with infection prevention and control (IPC) programmes can prevent nearly 613,000 infections annually across the EU/EEA.*[8]
- **Shorter hospital stays and reduced mortality**[9,10]: *Rapid pathogen identification combined with antimicrobial stewardship cuts hospital stays by over 3 days on average and helps avoid nearly 2,700 deaths yearly in the EU/EEA.*[11] *Hand hygiene and environmental cleaning alone prevent approximately 1,600 and 1,750 deaths annually, respectively.*[12]
- **Cost savings for healthcare systems and enhanced productivity for society**[13]: *Investing just €3.4 per person per year through the One Health approach prevents hundreds of thousands of infections and over 10,000 deaths, generating productivity gains valued at around €2.3 billion. The economic and health benefits are nearly three times the implementation costs.*[14]

MedTech Europe's Call to Action

Medical technologies are crucial for curbing AMR and HAIs, but their **adoption remains inconsistent**, hindering progress toward EU goals on infection prevention, antimicrobial use, and stewardship. To more effectively tackle AMR and HAIs, strategic action is needed at EU, national, regional, and local levels.

We encourage policymakers to take the following five concrete actions to more effectively address AMR and HAIs through medical technologies:

Prioritise HAI Reduction: Promote infection prevention and control (IPC) to reduce HAIs, incentivise IPC compliance and keep guidelines updated.

Expand Access to Rapid Diagnostics: Integrate rapid diagnostic tests into routine care including at point-of-care testing and revise reimbursement and funding to expedite the adoption of available and novel diagnostics.

Leverage Technology for Stewardship: Set clear surveillance and stewardship targets and develop integrated data systems for real-time monitoring and accountability.

Invest in Innovation: Increase funding and incentives for advanced diagnostics, surveillance tools, infection prevention devices, and platforms supporting new antibiotic development.

Foster Integrated 'One Health' Approaches: Harmonise AMR plans and data across human, animal, and environmental health, promote cross-border collaboration and ensure EU-level reporting and policy reflect these integrated priorities.

References

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About MedTech Europe
MedTech Europe is the European trade association for the medical technology industry, including *in vitro* diagnostics, medical devices and digital health solutions.

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