

# ***Save Antibiotic Strength*** **Health Plans Address the Challenge of Antibiotic Resistance**

**Robert Scalettar, M.D.**  
**July 19, 2005**



**CAQH** COUNCIL FOR  
AFFORDABLE  
QUALITY  
HEALTHCARE  
*a catalyst for positive change*

# An Introduction to CAQH

---

The Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) is a not-for-profit alliance of health plans and networks that promotes collaborative initiatives to:

- Make healthcare more affordable
- Share knowledge to improve quality of care
- Make administration easier for physicians and their patients

# ***Save Antibiotic Strength Campaign***

---

- **Goals**

- Address the growing public health crisis of antibiotic resistance through campaign targeting national awareness of appropriate antibiotic use
- Measure changes in antibiotic prescribing and consumer attitudes about antibiotic utilization

- **Description**

- Initially began as local effort in seven states or cities
- Transitioned to a national campaign

- **Target Audiences**

- Physicians/healthcare providers
- Consumers
- Employers

# CAQH Harris Interactive Consumer Survey

## Results: 2002-2004

To the best of your knowledge, which of the following conditions are antibiotics effective in treating?

	2002 (n=1,000)	2004 (n=2,065)
Ear infections	71%	72%
Strep throat	73%	70%
Bronchitis	N/A	50%
Flu	31%	20%
Colds	25%	16%
Not effective for any of the conditions above	N/A	2%
Not sure	-	12%

# Costs of Antibiotic Resistance

---

- In 1998, estimated at \$4-5 billion annually<sup>1</sup>
- Hospitalized patients with resistant bacteria cost \$20,000 more per patient to treat<sup>2</sup>
- Recent data from Pennsylvania extrapolated to the U.S. show that more than 125 people a day die from hospital-acquired infections with an associated \$50 billion of related hospital charges annually<sup>3</sup>
  - A growing percentage of these hospital-acquired infections are antibiotic resistant

<sup>1</sup> APUA, 2005 GAARD Report, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> APUA, 2005 GAARD Report, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Wall Street Journal, “Pennsylvania Finds High Toll in Hospital-Acquired Infections,” July 13, 2005, p. D4.

# Antibiotic Resistance: Why Payers Are Concerned

---

- Inappropriate antibiotic use negatively affects quality and costs of healthcare
  - Longer and more complex hospital stays due to resistance complications
  - Unnecessary patient exposure to adverse drug events (e.g., drug-drug interactions with antibiotics)
  - Wasted spending on ineffective antibiotic prescriptions
  - Increased prescribing of more expensive broad-spectrum antibiotics (on average 10x more costly than narrow-spectrum antibiotics)
- Purchasers are demanding cost-effective, high-quality health care
- Antibiotic resistance affects everyone

# Comparison of Relative Prices of Selected Antibiotics

Spectrum	Drug Name	Drug Dosage	10 day supply	
			Brand*	Generic **
Narrow	Amoxil	250 mg Q 8 hrs.	\$6.30	\$3.00
	(amoxicillin)	500 mg Q 8 hrs.	\$12.00	\$3.80
		875 mg Q 12 hrs.	\$20.45	N/A
Broad	Cipro	250 mg Q 12 hrs.	\$95.60	N/A
	(ciprofloxacin)	500 mg Q 12 hrs.	\$108.20	N/A
		750 mg Q 12 hrs.	\$112.14	N/A
Broad- last resort	Zyvox (linezolid)	600 mg QD	\$1144.80	N/A

7 \* Average Wholesale Price (AWP) based on Drug Topics Red Book Update, April 2003.

\*\*Red Book Generic Price or Contract Generic Price.

# New HEDIS Measures Focus on Encouraging Appropriate Antibiotic Use

---

- Antibiotic utilization
  - Goal – encourage decreased use of antibiotics overall, especially specific *antibiotics of concern* that should be reserved for treatment of the most serious infections
  - Track with national surveillance data on drug resistance trends
  - Identify new areas of misuse/overuse
- Inappropriate treatment of acute bronchitis in adults
  - 80% of antibiotics prescribed for acute respiratory infections in adults are unnecessary
  - Acute bronchitis is the most common condition where antibiotics are misused in adults
  - CAQH field test showed that, on average, 70% of patients with acute bronchitis received an antibiotic

# Increased Attention is Needed

---

- Effective methodologies to change behavior are still evolving
- Every year the problem gets worse
- Important to understand potential impact on Medicare Part D spending

# Partnering for Success

---

- A multi-pronged, public-private effort is needed with consistent and repeated messages
- Resources from all parts of the industry are critical
  - Payers/purchasers
  - Providers
  - Government
  - Pharmaceutical companies