

Novel EU incentives for antimicrobials: Time for ambitious action

The EU has identified AMR as one of the top three priority health threats



35,000

annual deaths in Europe, comparable to flu, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined



€1.5 billion

annually in healthcare costs and productivity losses



569 million

extra hospital days by 2050

Antimicrobials are the cornerstone of modern medicine...



Antimicrobials have extended the average lifespan by

23 years



1 in 5

cancer patients need effective antimicrobials during their treatment



Without effective antimicrobials, medical procedures, such as surgery and organ transplantation, may become

too risky

...but no new classes of antibiotics have been discovered since the 1980s. The current pipeline is insufficient to tackle the rise in drug resistance



Low volume and low price

To help stave off resistance, new antimicrobials are often held in reserve and used sparingly. Moreover, the value antimicrobials bring to patients and health systems is not adequately recognised. This contributes to making antimicrobial R&D a very risky process, with unsustainably low predicted returns.



Complex and risky science

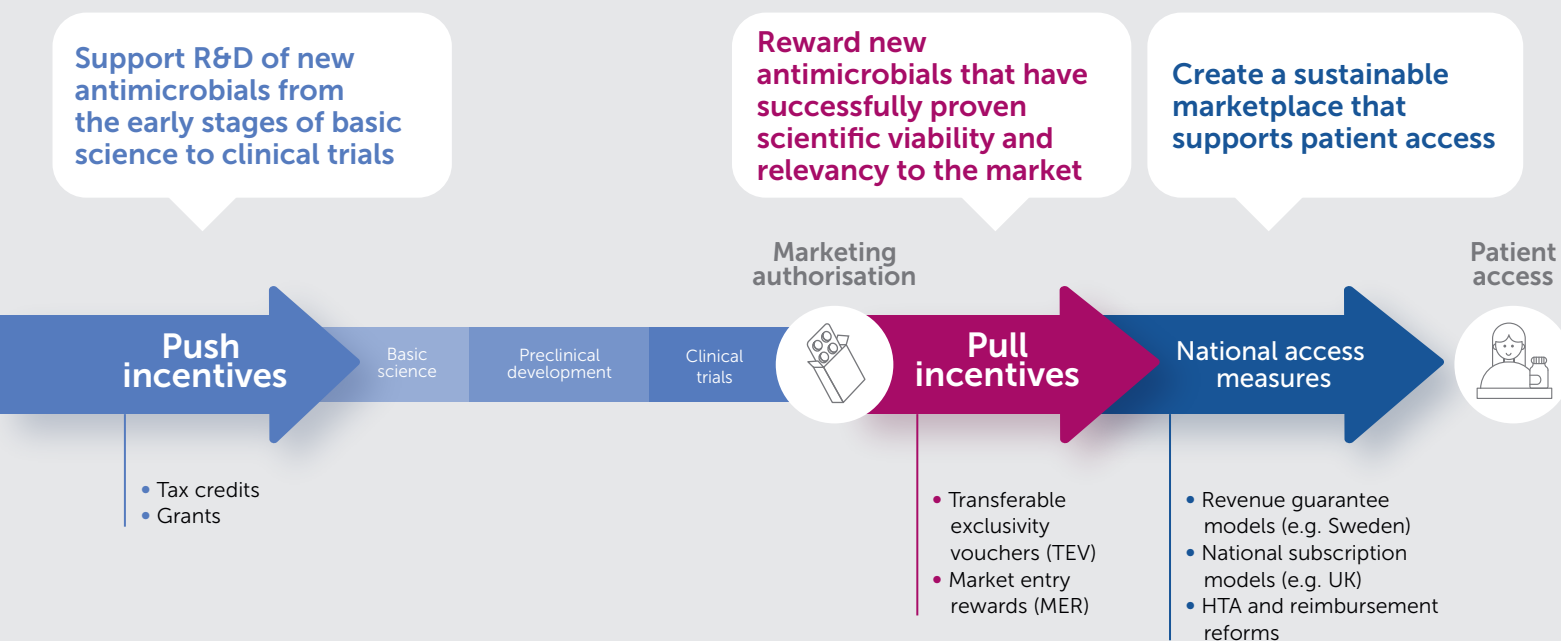
Clinical development of antimicrobials has multifaceted challenges including recruiting sufficient patients, addressing stringent regulatory requirements, navigating the intricacies of infection settings and managing the emergence of resistance.



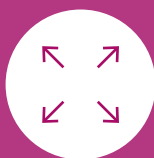
Inadequate financial incentives

The lack of sufficient financial incentives for antimicrobial R&D and commercialisation has become a critical barrier, hindering the development of new much-needed medicines.

New pull incentives are needed to revive the antimicrobial pipeline



To be effective, pull incentives should meet a set of key criteria



Size



Timeliness



Feasibility



Value for money



Predictability

Transferable exclusivity vouchers (TEV), if adequately designed, are a promising pull incentive option for the EU

