

AURA 2019: Areas for action: 2019–2020

[AURA 2019: Third Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health](#) provides data and analyses from the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Surveillance System, primarily from 2016 and 2017. Areas for action identified by AURA 2019, for the AURA National Coordinating Unit include:

Antimicrobial use

- Improving the appropriateness of antimicrobial use for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in hospitals
- Promoting the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs in general practice and aged care homes
- Improving appropriate use of amoxicillin-clavulanate and cefalexin in hospital and community settings
- Reducing unnecessary prescribing and improving appropriateness of prescribing in general practice (particularly for upper respiratory tract infections).

Antimicrobial resistance

- Strengthening infection control guidelines to reduce the spread of vancomycin-resistant enterococci
- Improving infection prevention and control in aged and acute care settings to respond to the rate of community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Continuing to monitor critical antimicrobial resistances for priority organisms through CARAlert to provide near real time information for infection control and outbreak responses, and to inform treatment guidelines
- Working with laboratory services and public and private health services to develop a more uniform approach to antimicrobial-susceptibility testing systems .

Surveillance and analysis

- Increasing hospital peer group and aged care home participation and representativeness in surveillance of antimicrobial use
- Increasing geographic participation and representativeness, particularly from Victoria and the Northern Territory, in passive surveillance of antimicrobial resistance
- Assessing factors that contribute to variation in antimicrobial use and prescribing across regions, states and territories..

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