

Questions raised on Antibiotics – September 2013

Antibiotics

Health

9th September 2013



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health what consideration has been given to the Danish VetStat model of collection of data on antimicrobial use on farms in the development of his Department's **UK** five-year antimicrobial resistance strategy.



Anna Soubry (Broxtowe, Conservative)

The Government is aware of systems in place in other European Union countries, whereby surveillance of antibiotic consumption is undertaken by livestock industries, in collaboration with vets. However, in the United Kingdom data are collected on the sale of veterinary antimicrobials. Furthermore, Europe is aiming to harmonise collection and reporting all these data through the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption.

Data collection and usage will also form part of the implementation of the **UK** Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy, which will be published shortly.

Streptococcus

Health

4th September 2013



Nadine Dorries (Mid Bedfordshire, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health

- (1) what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of (a) the dangers posed by and (b) steps taken to avoid **Group B** streptococcus among pregnant women and their families;
- (2) what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of the signs of Group B streptococcus infection in newborn babies;
- (3) what targets his Department has set for long-term reduction in the number of Group B streptococcal infections in maternity wards;
- (4) what his Department's policy is on routine testing for carriage of Group B streptococcus in the early stages of pregnancy;
- (5) what steps his Department is taking to identify pregnant women at higher risk of Group B streptococcal infection.



Daniel Poulter (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Conservative)

The Department is working together with the national health service, the [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists \(RCOG\)](#), the Royal College of Midwives, the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment and the pharmaceutical industry to raise awareness and make improvements in the reduction of early-onset **Group B** streptococcus infection in newborn babies.

The RCOG published their updated guidelines on prevention of Group B streptococcus (**GBS**) on incidence of GBS infection in neonates in July 2012. The updated guideline took into account new evidence on the prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS disease. It is important that services undertake local clinical audits to ensure the effective use of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis recommended by the guideline.

Following the publication of the revised guideline, the **UK** National Screening Committee suggested a formal audit of practice, to establish how well the new guidance is being implemented at a national level.

The RCOG, in partnership with the [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#), have now appointed a clinical research fellow to carry out an audit across the United Kingdom. It would aim to provide feedback and advice to all participating trusts about how they can further improve their adherence to the RCOG guidelines on the prevention of neonatal GBS disease.

In addition, The [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) published two clinical audit tools which include clinical audit standards, a data collection form and an action plan template for use by services that care for women in labour or for babies at risk of, or being treated for, early-onset neonatal infection. We expect **NHS** organisations to take them fully into account in their decision making, including on antibiotics for the prevention and treatment of early onset neonatal infection.

NICE recommend that all women should be offered a test in early pregnancy to identify the presence of bacteria in the urine. GBS can sometimes be identified in this way and current RCOG and NICE guidelines recommend that antibiotics in labour should be offered as a result.

The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme is currently commissioning a study to provide evidence on whether intrapartum testing of high risk women for GBS colonisation enables more timely identification of women with GBS carriage and potentially better targeted antibiotic use.

E. Coli Health

3rd September 2013



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health if he will make an assessment of recent research by Professor Peter Collignon of the [Australian National University](#) into the relationship between human deaths from E. coli and third-generation cephalosporin **antibiotic** use in poultry farming.



Anna Soubry (Broxtowe, Conservative)

The Government is aware of the research from Professor Collignon and colleagues which is a useful addition to the scientific evidence base. However, the pattern of usage of **antibiotics** in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands at the centre of the study was different.

We will continue to keep the evidence under review as part of the implementation of the Five Year **UK** Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy, which will be published very shortly.