

Bacterial Pathogens Priority List

May 20, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com

WHO Bacterial Priority Pathogens List, 2024

Bacterial pathogens of public health
importance to guide research, development
and strategies to prevent and control
antimicrobial resistance



World Health
Organization

About Bacterial Pathogens Priority List:

- It is an important tool in the global fight against **antimicrobial resistance**.
- **Background**
 - In **2017**, **WHO** developed the **first BPPL** to guide investment into the R&D of new antibacterials and it listed 13 bacterial pathogens (phenotypes).
 - It was developed with the **multi-criteria decision analysis** (MCDA) method (15).
 - MCDA is a decision-making scientific method that mounts and evaluates alternatives based on multiple criteria, facilitating systematic and transparent decision-making in complex options
- The 2024 WHO BPPL covers **24 pathogens, spanning 15 families** of antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens.
- The 2024 list categorizes these pathogens into **critical, high, and medium priority groups** to inform research and development (R&D) and public health interventions.
- **Significance**
 - The WHO BPPL acts as a **guide for prioritizing R&D and investments** in AMR, emphasizing the need for regionally tailored strategies to effectively combat resistance.
 - It targets developers of antibacterial medicines, academic and public research institutions, research funders, and public-private partnerships investing in AMR R&D, as well as policy-makers responsible for developing and implementing AMR policies and programs.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- It occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi**, and parasites no longer respond to medicines, making people sicker and increasing the risk of disease spread, illness and deaths.
- It is driven in large part by the **misuse and overuse of antimicrobials**.

Q1: What is a parasite?

A parasite is an organism that lives on or in a host organism and gets its food from or at the expense of its host.

Source: WHO updates Bacterial Pathogens Priority List as critical priority pathogens continue to present major global threat

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bacterial-pathogens-priority-list/>

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