

# **The Critical Need for New Antibiotics**

There are not enough antibiotics in development globally to meet current and anticipated patient needs.



#### Antibiotics in Clinical Development With the Potential to Treat Infections Caused by Resistant Gram-Negative ESKAPE Pathogens\*



There is a critical need for new therapies to treat deadly infections caused by Gram-negative ESKAPE pathogens<sup>2</sup>—bacteria that are often resistant to available antibiotics. Only a handful of new treatments with the potential to address these serious threats are currently in development.<sup>3</sup>

† Both of the approved drugs and two of the drugs that have completed phase 3 and had their new drug applications submitted to FDA have the potential to treat Gramnegative ESKAPE pathogens.

### **Critical threat pathogens**

The World Health Organization considers three bacteria—all of which are resistant to last-line carbapenem antibiotics—to be critical threats to public health. These pathogens—carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Acinetobacter baumannii*<sup>4</sup>—often cause severe complications in hospitalized patients, with up to 50 percent of patients dying from bloodstream infections caused by CRE.<sup>5</sup> There is an urgent need to address these critical threats, but only 11 antibiotics in development have the potential to treat infections caused by these bacteria.





### **Endnotes**

- 1 Michael Hay et al., "Clinical Development Success Rates for Investigational Drugs," *Nature Biotechnology* 32 (2014): 40–51, http://dx.doi. org/10.1038/nbt.2786. For more information on clinical trial phases, please see the glossary of terms at http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/ research-and-analysis/analysis/2014/03/12/glossary-for-the-antibiotic-pipeline.
- 2 The ESKAPE pathogens—Enterococcus faecium, Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Enterobacter species—cause many infections in the United States and show resistance to many currently available antibiotics. Within the ESKAPE pathogens are key Gram-negative bacteria, including K. pneumoniae, A. baumannii, P. aeruginosa, and Enterobacter species. These pathogens are particularly concerning due to the difficulty in discovering new therapies that can overcome current resistance. Stakeholders often highlight the Gram-negative ESKAPE pathogens as an area in which drug innovation is urgently needed.
- 3 An antibiotic is considered to have potential to treat resistant Gram-negative ESKAPE pathogens if the drug has in vitro data showing both activity against one or more Gram-negative species that are considered ESKAPE pathogens and the potential for clinically significant improved coverage of resistant isolates of these species relative to currently available antibiotics. For additional information, please see http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/data-visualizations/2014/antibiotics-currently-in-clinical-development.
- 4 World Health Organization, "Global Priority List of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria to Guide Research, Discovery, and Development of New Antibiotics" (2017), http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/global-priority-list-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria/en/.
- 5 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013" (2013), https://www.cdc.gov/ drugresistance/threat-report-2013/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf.

This infographic is based on analysis as of June 2018.

## For further information, please visit:

pewtrusts.org/antibiotic-pipeline

Contact: Heather Cable, manager Email: hcable@pewtrusts.org Phone: 202-552-2059

**The Pew Charitable Trusts** is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.