Understanding real world interactions: A policy perspective

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Who are we and what do we do?
We are the UK government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting our world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy. Our broad remit means we play a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink.

Objectives;
A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy
A world-leading food and farming industry
Defra have responsibility for coordinating and delivering the animal health related aspects of the European action plan against the rising threat of antibiotic resistance and the UK five year AMR strategy 2013-2018.
- Improving infection prevention and control practices
- Optimising prescribing practice
- Improving professional education, training and public engagement
- Developing new drugs, treatments and diagnostics
- Increased access to and use of surveillance data
- Identification and prioritisation of AMR research needs
- Strengthened international collaboration
The VMD is an executive agency of Defra and is responsible for delivery of AMR policy
So how could this call help policy?
ULTIMATE GOAL of the VMD: Protect humans and animals from any adverse effects of AMR in animals

Prevent Emergence of New Resistance and Ensure Treatment Options for Bacterial Infections Exist in the Future

POLICY ACTION: Recommend Interventions to Reduce prevalence of bacteria/infections in Animals

- Recommend Interventions to reduce Transmission
- Recommend Interventions that promote a shift of resistant populations back to the wild type
- Evaluate options for behaviour change so that interventions or practices are implemented
- Identify interventions to promote population shift back to the wild type
- Identify Interventions or practices to Reduce Transmission of Resistance
- Understand Transmission of Resistance
- Determine Current Prevalence of Resistance

POLICY ACTION: Develop New Antibiotics

- Evaluate options for behaviour change so that ideal prescribing practices are implemented
- Determine Ideal Prescribing Practices
- Understand the Effect of Antibiotic use/prescribing on the Development of Resistance
- Determine Current Antibiotic Use and prescribing practices

POLICY ACTION: Promote Alternative Treatment Options

- Evaluate Alternative Treatment Options
- Identify Alternative Treatment Options e.g. Vaccines

Key:
- Red: Transmission of resistance
- Purple: Understanding Resistance
- Blue: Antibiotic use
- Clear: Work areas not funded by VMD
Challenges for Policy

- This is a huge and complex area of work, where do we focus our resource to have the greatest impact?

- Translating research findings in to policy actions

- We are generating national policy so we need to have confidence that findings are representative and can be extrapolated