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Over prescribing- not all the doctor's fault: The impact of public understanding

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It has been broadly reported that antibiotics are over-prescribed and it is likely contributing to increasing bacterial resistance. Over 80% of all antibiotic prescriptions are written empirically i.e., without knowledge of the causative pathogen or its susceptibility pattern. There have been various national programs implemented to reduce antibiotic prescribing which are based either on a penalty or reward system. However, despite these efforts there is often an underlying and almost primal influence in this process, the patient. It is clear from several studies that the

public do not fully understand bacterial resistance, how it develops and what may be done to possibly change it. The World Health Organization and others have implemented surveys to understand better how patients think and what their attitudes are towards the problem. In this presentation, a summary of the various recent findings will be presented alongside some alternative approaches to raising public perception and understanding of the global crisis.

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