

PACCARB Meeting Sept 19, 2016

Recently, the FDA took an important first step by banning antimicrobial agents in household soaps, I feel this needs to be expanded to encompass other over-the-counter disinfectants and products, especially last line of defense antibiotics which are found in topical ointments – Such as Polymyxin B found in Polysporin, Neosporin and Triple Antibiotic Ointments.

There is no doubt that antibiotic stewardship is important, but there appears to be a disconnect between the concern regarding low levels of environmental contamination from agriculture and animal husbandry versus that associated with common household products. It needs to be remembered that low levels of contamination are optimal for promoting resistance.

In addition, much work needs to be done on the prevention of patient-to-patient transmission. Standards are too lax and those that exist lack the specificity needed for controlling highly infectious and dangerous pathogens, such as MRSA.

In the United States, MRSA bacteremia was trending downward. But recent reports on Hospital Compare shows the average hospital SIR (with 1.0 as the baseline) is now 0.93 and is going in the opposite direction, away from the SIR goal of 0.75.

The committee needs to guard against giving the appearance of deflection with their concentration of efforts on agriculture and the funding of the pharmaceutical industry. The committee needs to ensure that our healthcare institutions make the needed investments in prevention and patient safety, along with setting well defined standards for screening, isolation, environmental cleaning, appropriate staffing and worker safety.

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