



**AAAAI Statement before the Presidential
Advisory Council on Combatting Antibiotic-
Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB)
May 3-4, 2017**

Good afternoon,

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology appreciates the ongoing work of the Council and the opportunity to discuss the importance of robust federal funding for activities to address antimicrobial resistance. AAAAI is a professional organization of over 7,000 allergists, immunologists, and other health care professionals.

As the new Administration considers appropriations for fiscal year 2018, it is essential that the goals outlined in the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria continue to be a priority. With 2 million people infected by resistant bacteria and 23,000 deaths annually as a result of these infections, the Administration must remain committed to supporting antibiotic stewardship. One of the often overlooked factors contributing to antibiotic resistance is unverified penicillin allergy – reported by about 10 percent of the population. This most common drug allergy is associated with a generally unrecognized morbidity... it leads to receiving alternative antibiotics when penicillin is the drug of choice. Receiving an alternative antibiotic is associated with higher cost, greater risk for adverse events, longer hospital stays, and encouraging resistant bacterial strains. Penicillin skin testing can determine whether continued avoidance of penicillin is necessary. Approximately 9 in 10 patients with suspected penicillin allergy are mislabeled – they have negative penicillin skin testing, and can receive penicillin safely. AAAAI urges the new Administration to recognize the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance by encouraging penicillin allergy testing among federal health agencies, and by adequately funding stewardship programs aimed at achieving the goals of the National Action Plan.

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