

**Economic impact of antimicrobial resistance**

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The increasing prevalence of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens has economic consequences. Several studies have been published attempting to quantify these impacts, and the majority of studies show an association between infection and/or colonization with resistant organisms and increased costs for common hospital pathogens such as *S. aureus*, enterococci, and Gram negative organisms. Interpretation of these results requires an understanding of 1) the perspective of the study (e.g. hospitals, third-party payers, patients, society), 2) how costs can be measured and 3) how to maximize the design and analysis of the study to provide the best estimates of the association between resistance and costs.