



# Addressing Europe's most pressing health issues

In the EU, patients living with acute conditions and chronic diseases still face substantial barriers related to access to medicines that are essential to sustain quality of life. For example,

**150 million** Europeans suffer from allergies, one of Europe's most common chronic conditions. In its most severe form, anaphylaxis, timely and widely available access to Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) can be the only solution to prevent patient fatality — a matter of seconds. While defibrillators have been widely introduced in schools and public spaces for those experiencing cardiac arrest, this life-saving treatment remains unevenly accessible in Europe.

Similarly, the rise of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) levels is alarming — by 2050, it is estimated that **AMR will be responsible for up to 10 million deaths** annually, and result in \$1 trillion in additional healthcare costs. At the same time, while access to treatments for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) — responsible for **80% of the**

**€142 billion** that's the potential annual savings if patients received the appropriate, cost-effective treatments already available for allergies and related conditions.

Source: EACCI, Advocacy Manifesto, Tackling the Allergy Crisis in Europe - Concerted Policy Action Needed

disease burden in Europe — remains inequitable.

Viatriis is committed to addressing these urgent challenges. **Beyond its role as a founding member of the AMR Industry Alliance**, Viatriis has consistently worked to reinforce access to crucial medicines across Member States.

With over **90 antimicrobials** in its portfolio, Viatriis actively contributes to combating resistant bacteria. Additionally, Viatriis supplies vital treatments to allergy sufferers and supports NCD management by investing in prevention and treatment solutions. Through **ongoing outreach and education for healthcare professionals across Europe**, Viatriis remains dedicated to **strengthening healthcare resilience and improving access for all**.

While Viatriis believes that every person deserves to live healthier at every stage of life, and that strengthening and advancing healthcare system capabilities across the EU is vital to more effective and equitable delivery of care, we provide a series of recommendations:

## Combatting allergies and severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis):

**Promote allergy and anaphylaxis awareness:** Awareness campaigns and patient educational campaigns should be promoted regionally and nationally to improve management of allergies and anaphylaxis and timely access to life-saving treatment.



**Make AAIs consistently available in schools for emergency situations:** One key aspect of effective food allergy and anaphylaxis management is availability of AAIs in schools, where the risk of reactions could be higher. But there is a huge gap between EU Member States in emergency access in schools. This can be covered by concrete action at the European level to harmonize access to AAIs in emergency situations, allowing schools to have stock on hand and safeguard the lives of children.



**Allow organizations to hold emergency medicines for general use, specifically AAIs:** To minimize the number of deaths by anaphylaxis in Europe, we support the development of European-level guidance on the possibility of storage of specific emergency medications (including AAIs) in places like colleges, workplaces, transportation and sports venues. This should be a voluntary arrangement.



**Create and promote EU-wide evidence-based guidelines for managing food allergies and anaphylaxis including emergency use of AAIs in public places:** EU-wide adoption of comprehensive guidelines on food allergy and anaphylaxis covering diagnosis, treatment, management in the community (including access to AAIs for emergency use) and prevention that embraces different stakeholders is essential.



## Combatting antimicrobial resistance (AMR):

**Collaboration:** Addressing AMR requires a collective effort from many stakeholders. No single actor can solve it alone. Governments can help by joining surveillance networks, sharing data, and supporting global supply chains to maintain access to essential medicines.

**Access:** Ensuring a wide range of antibiotics is available is crucial for effective treatment. However, some antibiotics face price reductions that make production unviable, leading to shortages. Policymakers can support a sustainable market for older antibiotics via application of new pricing models to avoid supply disruptions.



**Stewardship:** Antibiotics are often misused, including when being taken for viral infections. Healthcare providers and patients need to be better informed on when and how to use antibiotics properly. Raising awareness about proper disposal can also help reduce environmental impact.

**Proactive infection prevention:** Improving hospital infection control, sanitation, and increasing vaccination rates, especially for seasonal flu, can reduce infections and the need for antibiotics, slowing AMR development.



## Relieving the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs):

**Improving therapeutic adherence:** In Europe, non-adherence is responsible for **€125 billion** in excess healthcare spending. Lawmakers should acknowledge the therapeutic adherence gap as an unmet medical need of patients in Europe, and support implementation of dose dispensing.

**Address health inequities across Europe and within countries.** Population-wide programs specifically designed to help countries and regions to overcome these inequities should be prioritized. Continuous monitoring, specific policies at the EU-level as well as harmonized data registries in the Member States, could help to identify and effectively address inequalities.

