

intent, which potentially could result in an infectious event. With the tuberculosis ventilation regulation, the AI are required to be evaluated before admission of a potential tuberculosis patient. There is not a regulation for PR. Continuous monitoring of SVRs is necessary to assure consistent airflow direction in critical patient-care environments. Hospitals should be designed to identify special ventilation needs with specification for ventilation control parameters.<sup>11</sup> Without detailed SVR standards, especially for creating an airtight (sealed) room, ventilation control may be inconsistent.

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## Chile Establishes Law to Control Antibiotic Use

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Antibiotics commonly are sold over the counter in Latin American countries. Bavestrello and colleagues from Hospital Dr. Gustavo Fricke, Viña del Mar, Chile, recently studied antimicrobial use and related costs in Chile and reported on how these data were used to implement a governmental policy mandated on prescriptions. Using antibiotic sales in Chile, per year, either in grams of antibiotics or in sale units, they reported a significant increase in the daily defined dose (DDD) per 1,000 person-days. From January 1997 to December 1998, they reported a 498% increase in amoxicillin, 309% increase in oral cephalosporin, and a 473% increase in oral fluoroquinolones. Chloramphenicol was the only antibiotic that decreased (18%) during this period.

A number of groups, including the Chilean Scientific Societies, Ministry of

Health, National Health Institute, and the Health Commission of Congress, met to review these data. It was agreed that a law requiring medical prescriptions for antibiotics was needed. Since it was anticipated that the law would be unpopular, a national educational campaign to rally public support was developed with assistance from the Chilean College of Physicians, the Chilean College Pharmacists, and the National Consumer Services.

One year after the intervention, a second study was done to evaluate the change in consumer behavior and trends in consumption of antibiotics. This second study compared the use of antibiotics in two trimesters, during the same calendar months, the first one before and the second one after the intervention. (October-December 1998 vs the same period in 1999). The consumption and sale of amoxicillin decreased 36%, ampicillin 56%, and

erythromycin 30%. This change resulted in a \$6.4 million (US) savings for the period of 1998 to 1999.

The studies show how scientific data can be used to influence governmental policy to optimize antibiotic use and to help prevent antimicrobial resistance. A collaborative effort among scientific societies and the government contributed to the success of this program. The researchers note that Chile is the first Latin American country to establish mandatory medical prescription for controlling antibiotic use in the outpatient setting.

FROM: Bavestrello L, Cabello A. (1) First evaluation of the impact of the regulatory measures on antibiotic use in the outpatient setting in Chile. (2) Trends of use of antibiotics in Chile in the last 10 years. Presented at the XVII Annual Conference of the Chilean Infectious Diseases Society; August 2000; Viña del Mar, Chile.