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## The Emerging Threat Of Antimicrobial Resistance: Can Probiotics Help?

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**OBJECTIVE:** To provide CDC with a body of evidence on probiotics that addresses the following questions in order to provide the public with information concerning the use of probiotics.

- 1) Does evidence exist that probiotics have a role in preventing drug resistant infections? 2) Does evidence exist that probiotics have a role in treating drug resistant infections?
- 3) Does evidence support that probiotics can effectively treat antibiotic resistant infections, alone or in combination with antibiotics?
- 4) Does evidence exist that probiotics might actually foster antimicrobial resistance in humans or animals?
- 5) What are the healthcare settings in which probiotics are currently being used to prevent or treat infections (settings in which preventing or fostering antimicrobial resistance might occur)?
- 6) What are the healthcare settings in which probiotics are currently being used to treat non-infectious diseases or to promote health and wellbeing?

**METHODOLOGY:** A literature search was performed using PubMed in order to retrieve peer-reviewed evidence to support the research questions. Non-peer reviewed evidence was gathered from various web sites.

**RESULTS:** After a thorough literature review, the evidence has been organized in a table organized by research question.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The data must be analyzed in order to obtain support or contradicting evidence for each research question. The results of this analysis will enable CDC to provide information to the public that will inform them on probiotics and particularly their utilization with antimicrobials.