

Payers' perceptions of current policy approaches to address antimicrobial resistance in Europe

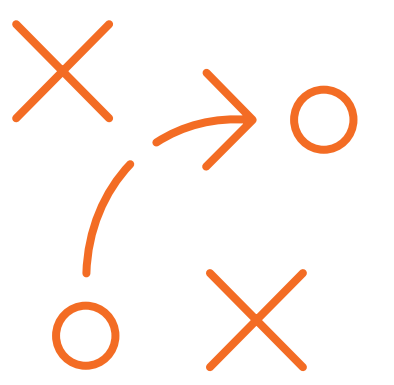
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Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a multifaceted global phenomenon that has become one of the top ten threats to global health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)¹. The magnitude of the issue was demonstrated in a WHO global surveillance report in 2014 which gave us our first real glimpse into the magnitude of the direct and indirect impacts of AMR on the global health landscape². AMR will have devastating impacts on millions of lives unless urgent actions are taken to address it.

It is only in recent years that policy makers have developed and implemented policies to address AMR. Under WHO's guidance, European countries are taking steps to encourage optimal use of antimicrobials by training physicians to restrict prescribing antimicrobials and educating the public on the consequences of not completing the prescribed dose. However, addressing AMR poses a unique challenge – encouraging and promoting manufacturers to invest in research and development of new antibiotics while simultaneously restricting the use and sale of existing and new antibiotics, creating a not-so-lucrative market.



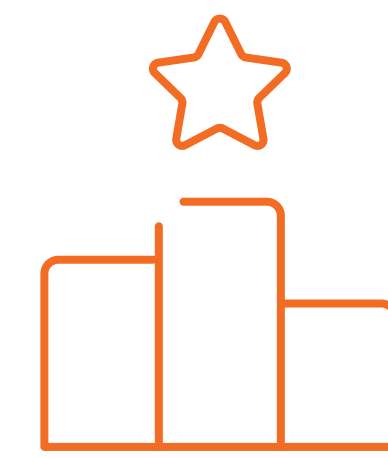
Objectives

The objective of this research was to explore payers' perceptions of the impact of the initiatives employed to address AMR, specifically Germany's exceptional P&R pathway for antimicrobials and the UK's innovative subscription model.



Methods

We conducted an online survey (February – March 2023) with payers/proxies across France, Italy, Germany, Spain and the UK, from our proprietary internal stakeholder database. The survey collected data to assess their perspective on the impact of the policies implemented in Germany and the UK to address AMR.



Results

10 payers (2-France, 2-Italy, 2-Germany, 2-Spain and 2-UK) completed the online survey.

Payers recognize that AMR poses a major threat to their countries and that policymakers are taking actions to address AMR, although they identify room for improvement (Figure 1).

Payers are of the opinion that addressing AMR requires a multi-faceted approach that includes training prescribers, raising awareness among the public on the risks associated with overuse /misuse of antibiotics and providing the right incentive to pharmaceutical companies to invest in R&D of new antibiotics.

Payers in all five countries generally have a positive perception of both German and UK policies. However, in terms of its impact on addressing AMR and encouraging manufacturers to invest in the development of new antibiotics, the UK's subscription model received a higher rating than Germany's exceptional P&R pathway, particularly among the French, Italian, and Spanish payers we surveyed (see Figures 2 and 3). By specifying a guaranteed income for manufacturers, the UK model is perceived as particularly successful at achieving the latter objective.

In addition, an in-depth analysis of the survey data revealed a lack of consensus among the key European countries on an ideal approach to tackle AMR. UK payers provide higher rating for the UK subscription model's ability to tackle AMR while perhaps unsurprisingly, German payers provided a higher rating for the AMNOG-exemption.

Figure 1: Payer perception of the impact of steps taken to address AMR



Figure 2: Payers' perception of impact of UK subscription model and Germany's AMNOG exemption on **addressing AMR** – mean rating

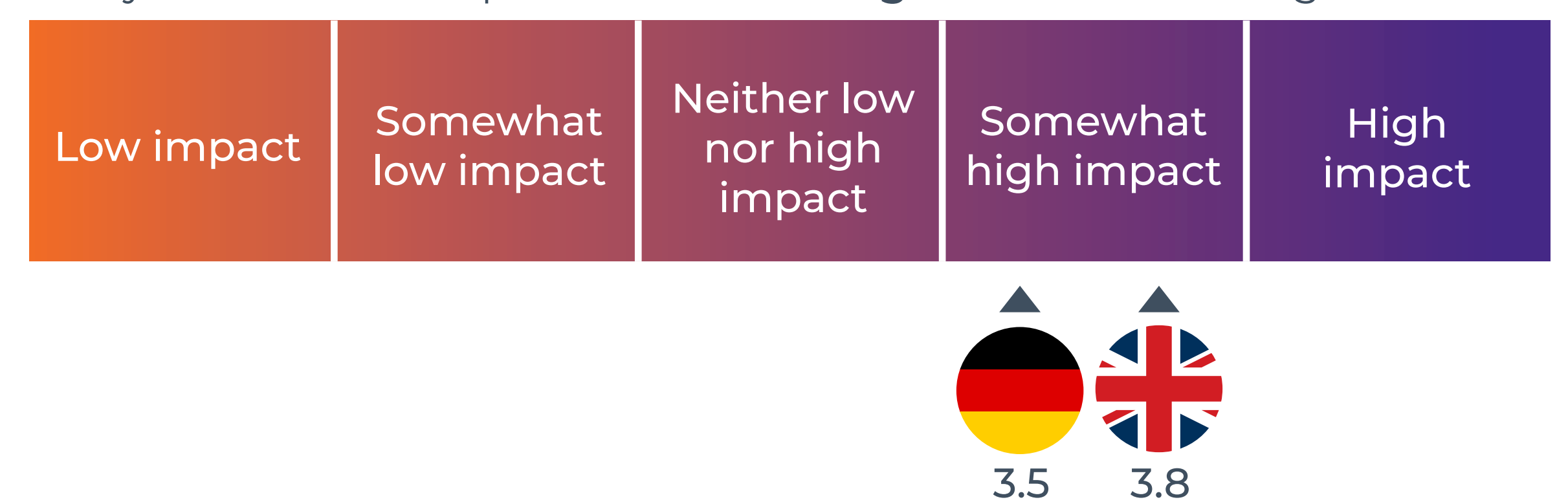
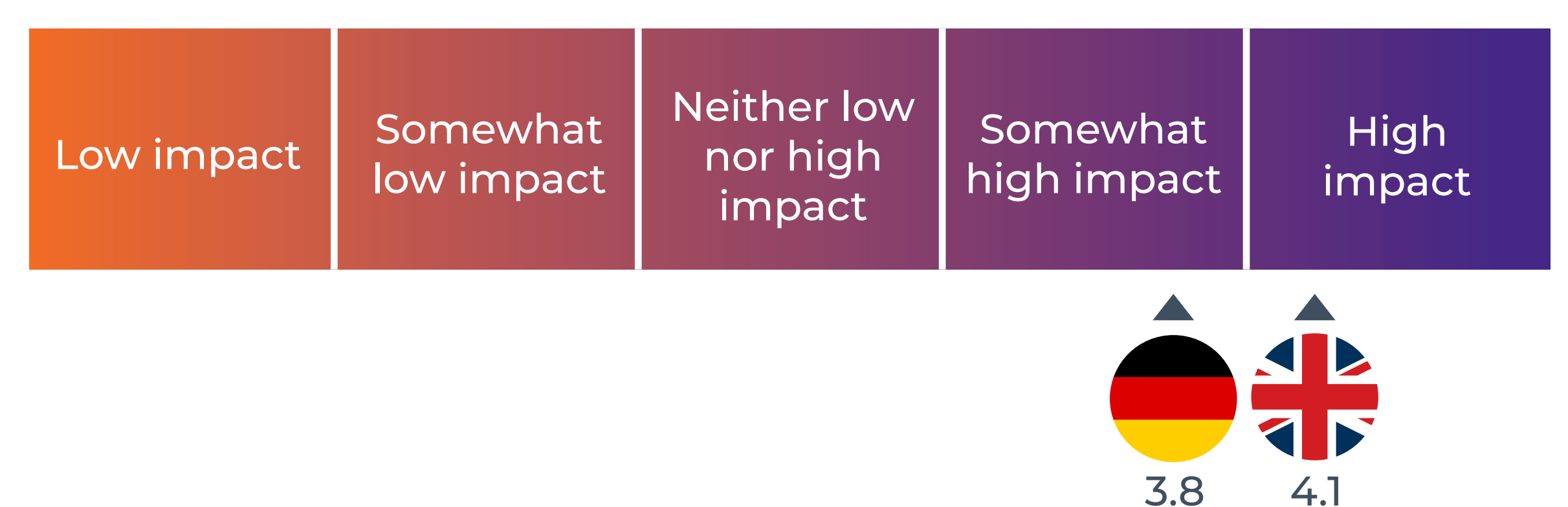


Figure 3: Payers' perception of impact of UK subscription model and Germany's AMNOG exemption on **encouraging R&D into new antibiotics** – mean rating



Conclusions

Policy intervention is required to create viable market conditions to encourage manufacturers to invest in new antimicrobials, an action necessary to combat AMR and enable patients to access these new drugs more quickly. Our results show that payers recognize value in the approaches adopted by UK and Germany, suggesting that moving away from the standard pricing and reimbursement frameworks for antimicrobials and exploring innovative contracting models that incentivise manufacturers to invest in this area could have a positive impact if applied elsewhere.

However, AMR is a global issue and manufacturers' efforts are shaped by the global market. Effectively tackling AMR will necessitate more than a siloed country-by-country approach, with combined efforts from policy makers, prescribers, public and pharmaceutical companies.

References

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2. Antimicrobial resistance: Global report on surveillance, 2014. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/antimicrobial-resistance-global-report-surveillance-2014>

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