

- While some literature exists on factors that contribute to antimicrobial shortages, the need remains to accurately gauge the level of patient harm incurred as a result of realized antimicrobial shortages.
- This was a pilot study of a novel method of reporting patient harm due to an antimicrobial drug shortage.
- A questionnaire was distributed to gather reports of patient harm due to antimicrobial shortages and assess the severity of harm and its causal relationship to the shortage.
- Complete data was reported for four patients whose outcomes ranged from a delay in treatment to death.
- This pilot study may help gauge the true impact of shortages and help guide policies aimed at allocating appropriate resources to control and prevent patient harm caused by future antimicrobial shortages.

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