There are many reasons why diagnostics and antibiotics don't make it to patients. Without timely access to appropriate antimicrobials and diagnostics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) spreads, medical costs rise, and patients suffer. AMR Industry Alliance’s Equitable and Responsible Access Roadmap lays out key problems that block access, and solutions to overcome them.

**Diagnostics Infrastructure**

**Problem:** Accessing reliable medical tests can be a challenge in many places due to problems with electricity, biosafety requirements, internet connectivity, supply chain stability, and laboratory workforce capacity among other issues, which can cause delays in diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

**Solution:** Governments need to invest in sustainable clinic and laboratory infrastructure improvements to achieve access to quality, safe, effective, affordable, and essential diagnostics for everyone.

**Recognition of the Value of Diagnostic Technology**

**Problem:** Diagnostic technology is crucial for improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare costs. However, a lack of awareness about the value of diagnostic testing can result in inadequate funding for diagnostic technology, making testing less accessible to medical professionals.

**Solution:** Governments need to create and promote training programs for diagnostics in clinical care and surveillance, encourage the use of technology for antimicrobial stewardship, and incentivize healthcare systems to use diagnostics. The value of diagnostics to society and individual patients should be included in health technology assessments to encourage appropriate use and stewardship.

**Forecasting and Surveillance**

**Problem:** Forecasting demand in the context of changing infectious disease patterns and antimicrobial resistance poses a challenge, leading to supply constraints.

**Solution:** Improving data collection and strengthening surveillance systems supported by diagnostic technology can enable better monitoring to connect high-quality antimicrobials to the right patients.

**What does “Access” mean?**

The timely availability of appropriate antimicrobials and diagnostic technology worldwide that are quality-assured and sustainably priced via health facilities near their home.

**Regulatory Processes**

**Problem:** Complex and varying regulatory processes pose a significant barrier to global access to both novel and generic antibiotics.

**Solution:** Regulatory systems need improvement to create efficiency and enable more timely and equitable registration of quality-assured medicines through flexible country-specific trial data requirements, removal of financial disincentives to market entry, utilization of reference mechanisms, and the implementation of reliance mechanisms by working collaboratively with organizations like the World Health Organization.

**Antimicrobial Procurement Challenges**

**Problem:** Antibiotic procurement policies and practices can create challenges for countries of any income level in accessing the medicines they need.

**Solution:** To enhance access to essential antibiotics worldwide, it is crucial to revise pricing policies for off-patent antibiotics to ensure a balance between cost-effectiveness for health systems and viability for suppliers.

Please us the QR Code to access the full Equitable & Responsible Access Roadmap