



# Firstline Delivers National Guidelines for Canada

**Government of Canada today announces the distribution of national antimicrobial prescribing guidelines on Firstline**

**Vancouver, Friday, May 17th. 9:30 AM EST**

[Firstline](#) is thrilled to announce a significant milestone, a testament to Canadian innovation and our commitment to advancing public health. In a momentous [collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada](#), Firstline is playing a pivotal role in the development and dissemination of Canada's first official national antimicrobial prescribing guidelines.

This initiative marks a major stride in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a looming threat that challenges the fabric of global health systems.

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most daunting challenges of our time. The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials have accelerated the spread of resistance, undermining the effectiveness of these essential medications and posing a severe threat to public health. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the Government of Canada has launched a strategy to optimize antimicrobial use across the nation.

The project will deploy Firstline's advanced digital platform to facilitate localization of the World Health Organization's AWaRe system and antibiotic book for Canadian use, and deliver those guidelines to healthcare providers right at the point of care. Every healthcare provider, across all clinical settings, plays a critical role in antimicrobial stewardship. By integrating these guidelines seamlessly into everyday medical practice, Firstline will enable healthcare professionals to make informed, evidence-based decisions that are vital for effective patient care. This effort not only underscores Firstline's technological capability but also our dedication to enhancing clinical outcomes.

Firstline and PHAC are joined in the project by the [Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada](#) (AMMI Canada), whose members were instrumental in the creation of the WHO's [AWaRe global guidelines](#). This project will see AMMI leading the adaptation of the WHO's gold standard guidance for use in Canada using local evidence.

This collaboration leverages Firstline's extensive experience in antimicrobial stewardship, drawing on our successful partnerships with global entities including the WHO. Our involvement in the creation and distribution of the WHO's AWaRe global guidelines has equipped us with invaluable insights and capabilities that we are now bringing to our home front in Canada. Firstline is currently in-use at hundreds of hospitals across Canada, and this project will build on those foundations to ensure that healthcare providers are



universally able to lean on national expertise wherever local guidance is not available at the point of care.

The significance of this project cannot be overstated. In Canada, AMR currently claims thousands of lives and costs billions of dollars annually. Therefore, this effort is more crucial than ever. The project is not just about developing guidelines; it's about safeguarding the future of healthcare, ensuring that life-saving medical interventions remain effective, and ultimately, saving lives.

## **Shaping a new, stronger fight against AMR**

The success of this project is a collective triumph, shared with every dedicated member of our team whose expertise has fueled our progress. It is also a testament to the strong partnerships forged with the healthcare community across Canada, all united in enhancing patient care. We eagerly anticipate the successful implementation of these guidelines and are committed to advancing healthcare technology and clinical practices. By setting new standards, we aim to make a substantial impact on public health in Canada and beyond.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the cumulative help Firstline has received in reaching this milestone through support from the extraordinary Canadian innovation ecosystem, including [DIGITAL, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#) and the Alberta [Major Innovation Fund](#). Thank you, to all our partners, stakeholders and supporters.

In celebrating this moment, we're inspired by the remarkable power of collaboration and ingenuity to tackle healthcare's most pressing challenges. With relentless dedication and passion, we look forward to forging ahead for a healthier future. Here's to advancing health through innovation.

### **Quotes:**

"Firstline is delighted to be deploying our service and technology to manage and distribute national antimicrobial prescribing guidance for the Government of Canada. Our experiences partnering with the World Health Organization, other governments and healthcare organizations give Firstline a unique ability to deliver clinical guidance that produces real-world improvements in patient care. Having deployed more sophisticated antimicrobial stewardship interventions around the world than any other organization, we are proud to play a national role in supporting healthcare providers at home in Canada."

*Dr Michael Long, Chief Clinical Officer, Firstline*



"To help combat antimicrobial resistance, WHO is supporting health professionals by providing key information on new antimicrobial agents and emerging resistance patterns. The work done in Canada promotes best quality of care to reduce avoidable deaths from AMR in the future. It is an example to be replicated: proactive use of new technologies to disseminate best evidence to fight back antimicrobial resistance."

*Dr Lorenzo Moja, Secretary a.i. Model List of Essential Medicines, WHO*

"We are immensely proud to support Firstline's groundbreaking leadership in the development and global deployment of its data-sharing platform to combat antimicrobial resistance. This announcement is a tremendous achievement for British Columbia-led innovation and a remarkable milestone, benefitting people in Canada and around the world with more informed, evidence-based care in prescription guidance."

*Sue Paish, CEO at DIGITAL, Canada's Global Innovation Cluster for digital technologies*

Related release: [Public Health Agency of Canada, including quotes from Minister Holland.](#)

### **About [Firstline](#)**

Firstline is a health technology company with a mission to help solve humanity's greatest health challenges by bringing people and knowledge together. This is pursued through web and mobile software that distills and accelerates the flow of expert knowledge to healthcare providers. Firstline facilitates previously impossible levels of knowledge transfer between otherwise disconnected clinical experts everywhere in the world. Leaders in information design and technology, with deep experience communicating vetted clinical guidance to the point of care.

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