Supplementary Material S6—Top three themes and examples of comments provided by focus group participants on the perceived concerns associated with development of a centralized AMR repository.

Unintentional misuse and misinterpretation
Fear of data being inappropriately interpreted and used was the most common concern voiced among stakeholders. Participants mentioned the possibility of having biased data and skewed results depending on where the data is coming from, leading to questions regarding if there is enough data to draw accurate conclusions. Participants were also concerned about how use of breakpoints in veterinary medicine could lead to a misinterpretation of resistance due to differences between human and animal breakpoints (i.e., false impression that resistance rates are higher in veterinary compared to human medicine). Some of the statements in this theme were also connected to the fear of insufficient data or lack of representative data, both of which could skew results significantly. Listed below are several quotes related to this theme:

“Data that is collected and available may be assessed differently pending upon who is adding it to the repository”

“Misuse of AMR data, such as genomic data, that could be used inappropriately by someone who is not familiar with AMR science”

“There is not enough meta-data associated with data to control for random/fixed effects, which could result in inappropriate/wrong interpretation of the result”

“That our data will look really bad because of the way our breakpoints call resistance”

“[Diagnostic] data is biased, sick animals multiple treatments, not representative of AMR in general”

Malicious use of data and fear of government's actions
Attendees expressed their concern about suffering retaliation, lawsuits and having people using data against them. They also indicated a fear of the government setting inconvenient rules about AMU based on data collected. Listed below are several quotes related to this theme:
“Data being taken from the data base and misused to create policies that do not make sense or to target certain industries or specific operations in those industries”

“I worry that drug companies will get this data and use it to paint one their competitor’s product in a light that is negative and potentially use it to take it off the market

“The possibility for misuse and misrepresentation of this data to make treatments more difficult or delayed due to regulations”

“May bring trade bans/embargos on the US or certain states”

“[…] Many [producers] would be concerned about possible increased legislative control over antimicrobial use; not sure how to alleviate those”

**Data privacy and security**

Data confidentiality and its protection were also a frequent concern of participants. There were concerns about people being able to track and identify producers, farmers, industries, and other organizations and link them to antimicrobial resistance. Cyber security and data leakage were also mentioned. Listed below are several quotes related to this theme:

“[It] could open up liability if a producer was found to be the originator of an AMR organism in their region”

“[I am] concerned with genotyping and the ability to traceback to a farm of origin in the event of a food borne outbreak or trace an antimicrobial resistant human pathogen back to a farm of origin”

“If there is any confidentiality breach, the entire system will be at risk”

“Cyber security: someone hacking the system”

“I worry […] about anonymity, because, again, I work in a highly integrated industry. That is extremely regionalized and even if you did not say who it was, a lot of people could just make a guess, because they know that those people operate in those regions”
“[…] If antimicrobial trends are associated with their location how we can bring those stakeholders to the table and provide enough assurances that their reputation, that their data would be protected and yet make that information available to researchers in a protected way, so we can look clearly at the condition that leads to antimicrobial resistance?”