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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERAGENCY PHARMACEUTICALS
IN THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP**

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ABSTRACT: As analytical methods improve, scientists are better able to detect chemicals in water at concentrations at the parts per trillion (ppt) range and lower. Recent studies and articles in the media have discussed how pharmaceuticals are being found in rivers and lakes, which can serve as sources of drinking water, and in treated drinking water. Such articles have heightened the public's interest in pharmaceuticals in the environment, their effects on aquatic life, and possible effects on humans. To address these concerns, an interagency Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PiE) Working Group was established in 2006 under the auspices of the Office of Science Technology and Policy. The purpose of the PiE Working Group is to develop a research strategy that 1) defines and prioritizes topic areas and data needs for which the resolution would improve the ability to assess possible human and ecological risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment and 2) recommends areas for federal collaboration to address those priorities. The PiE Working Group is developing the two research strategies for 1) human and veterinary pharmaceuticals in the environment and 2) antibiotic resistance. As part of this exercise, an inventory has been established of ongoing pharmaceuticals in the environment-related activities across the federal government. In this talk, a model will be presented that has guided development of the research framework and the identification of some of the key definitional issues, key data gaps and research priorities.

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