

**APPROACHES TO SCREENING FOR RISK
FROM PHARMACEUTICALS IN DRINKING WATER
AND PRIORITIZATION FOR FURTHER EVALUATION**

Abstract:

Pharmaceuticals have been discovered in this nation's ambient waters, wastewater, and drinking water at very low levels. EPA has a strategy to respond to this issue, including improving science through research, improving public understanding, identifying partnership opportunities, and taking regulatory action when appropriate. As a part of this strategy, EPA is examining ways to screen and prioritize pharmaceuticals that occur in drinking water for potential human health risk at low concentrations. This white paper summarizes the different approaches taken in six articles considering risk assessment of pharmaceuticals in drinking water, examining the health endpoints used, the data sources, occurrence data, and key distinctions of each approach. The similarities and differences between the approaches are outlined, including the alternative dose metrics used for health endpoints in different approaches and the consideration of alternative sources of occurrence data.