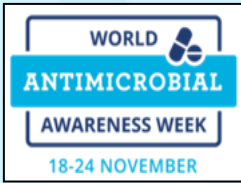


Antimicrobial Update

November 2022



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) takes place between 18-24 November each year. The aim is to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers, farmers, animal health professionals and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug resistant infections.

Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together!

Antimicrobial resistance is still one of the biggest threats facing us globally **and** locally. This year, the theme of WAAW is **“Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together.”** The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) is asking all healthcare staff to encourage the prudent use of antimicrobials and to strengthen preventive measures to address AMR, by working together collaboratively through a [One Health](#) approach.

What accelerates the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance?

AMR occurs naturally over time, usually through genetic changes. Antimicrobial resistant organisms are found in people, animals, food, plants and the environment (in water, soil and air). They can spread from person to person or between people and animals, including from food of animal origin. The main drivers of antimicrobial resistance include the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials.

Present Situation - Drug resistance

High rates of resistance have been observed world-wide against antibiotics frequently used to treat common bacterial infections like urinary tract infections, sepsis, sexually transmitted infections, and some forms of diarrhoea. This indicates that we are running out of effective antibiotics.

Did you know?

- In 2019, 1.3 million human deaths were directly attributable to bacterial AMR
- The development of a new antibiotic can take 10-15 years and cost more than £0.9 billion



Antibiotic Amnesty

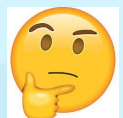
The unsafe disposal of antibiotics is hazardous to both the environment and human health.

Please encourage patients to return any unused or unwanted antibiotics to their local community pharmacy for safe disposal. Unused or unwanted antibiotics, should not be kept for another time or shared with other people.

This simple action will help protect antibiotics for everyone. *We all have a role to play in preserving antibiotics for the future!!*



Competition Win an iPad



Take the emoji antimicrobial side-effect quiz for a chance to win an iPad. [Follow the link and complete the quiz.](#) Correct entries will be entered into a draw to win an iPad. Competition closes 30th November 2022.

- Amoxicillin - 🙄💩
- Metronidazole - 🍷🤢
- Nitrofurantoin - 🟡👉



AMR - What Can You Do?

All healthcare staff have an important role in providing patients and the public with important information about the appropriate use and disposal of antimicrobials.



Objective 1 of the Global Action Plan is to:

Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education and training.

Healthcare professionals are well aware that antibiotics should not be prescribed for self-limiting conditions such as sore throats, colds and flu. It is really important that this information is effectively communicated to your patients when they request antibiotics and that inappropriate requests for antibiotics are not encouraged by any healthcare professional.

Antimicrobial Resistance is a threat to your own and your family's health. You can help by taking some simple steps:

- Only take antibiotics when they are prescribed by a healthcare professional.
- Remember, antibiotics are not effective against viral infections, such as a cold, Covid or the flu. Most simple infections such as sore throats or earaches do not need antibiotics. Your body can usually fight these infections on its own.
- There are other medicines available to purchase to help manage your symptoms.
- If you are prescribed an antibiotic, you must take it exactly as directed.
- Never share antibiotics with anyone else – this could be dangerous.
- Take any unused or unwanted antibiotics to a local community pharmacy for safe disposal.



Penicillin Allergy

Are you sure you are allergic to penicillin? Professionals and patients are urged to double-check. Millions of people in the UK have penicillin allergy recorded in their medical notes. Many of them are not truly allergic. [New research](#) highlights the importance of both doctors and patients discussing recorded penicillin allergies. People who are not allergic will receive second choice antibiotics if their notes are incorrect. This can mean longer hospital stays and more risk of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

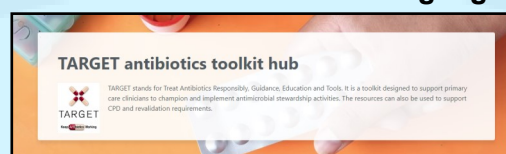


Resources

There are a wide range of resources for healthcare professionals and patients to help raise awareness and promote self-care.

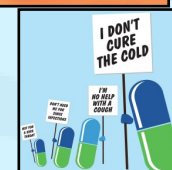
Antimicrobial resources for practices and pharmacies:

- [NI formulary](#) download the app
- [TARGET toolkit](#) hub is available free on the RCGP website
The TARGET 'Treating Your Infection' leaflets for common infections **are available in 25 languages** and in a **pictorial format**.
- They all provide information on:
 - Average symptom duration for common infections
 - Self-care advice for patients/parents
 - Safety-netting advice about when to reconsult
- Royal Pharmaceutical society [Antibiotic Amnesty resources](#)



Antimicrobial resources for patients :

- Patients resources available on [patient zone](#) of the NI formulary and the [PHA](#) website
- Video [what would a world without antibiotics be like?](#)
- Social media [Animation](#)



This newsletter has been produced for GPs and pharmacists by the Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents, please contact one of the [Pharmacy Advisors](#).

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. This newsletter is not to be used for commercial purposes.