

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

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## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

**#WAAW 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Now, more than ever we need to continue to work together to prevent serious infections whilst reducing inappropriate antibiotic use. WAAW provides an annual, timely opportunity to focus on antimicrobial stewardship. This year's theme is "**Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together.**"

The World Health Organisation call on all sectors to encourage the prudent use of antimicrobials and to strengthen preventive measures addressing antimicrobial resistance, working together collaboratively through a [One Health](#) approach.

This year the focus for WAAW in England will be on health and social care workers, as well as patients who have been prescribed antibiotics. Raising awareness of the risks of antimicrobial resistance in these groups is important. The 2022 WAAW toolkit is focused on using digital messaging to support speed and ease of communication while including a wide variety of suggestions for engagement with different groups of people.

**Whether you intend on supporting a small or big campaign, all antimicrobial stewardship helps to keep antibiotics working, so please do what you can to get involved during and beyond WAAW.**



### 1. UK Health Security Agency: Antibiotic awareness: WAAW toolkit for healthcare professionals in England [LINK](#)

Many resources are available to help raise awareness of good antimicrobial stewardship. They can be found via the link in the WAAW resource toolkit including posters, leaflets, quizzes and digital resources. The link also includes resources from previous campaigns (Antibiotic Guardian: Keep Antibiotics Working (2019)). It is encouraged to choose your pledge and register your organisation's activities in support of the national initiatives. [LINK](#)

### 2. NICE Antimicrobial stewardship: Back-up (or delayed) prescribing [LINK](#)

The NICE antimicrobial stewardship quality standard states: When there is clinical uncertainty about whether a condition is self-limiting or is likely to deteriorate, delayed or back-up prescribing offers healthcare professionals an alternative to immediate antimicrobial prescribing. It encourages self-management as a first step but allows a person to access antimicrobials without another appointment if their condition gets worse.

A delayed or post-dated prescription, for collection from the GP practice or pharmacy at a later defined date (usually 48 hours) may be preferable to an immediate prescription with the verbal instruction not to use for several days.

However immediate prescriptions should be given for severe infections or those who are immunocompromised. Or emergency referral if sepsis is suspected. Additional information about back-up (or delayed) prescribing can be found within the TARGET Antibiotic toolkit, as mentioned below. [LINK](#)

### **3. Additional resources in support of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week**

#### **3.1 Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) TARGET Antibiotics toolkit [LINK](#)**

TARGET stands for: Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools. This RCGP digital toolkit helps influence prescribers' and patients' personal attitudes, social norms and perceived barriers to optimal antibiotic prescribing. It includes a range of resources that can each be used to support prescribers' and patients' responsible antibiotic use, helping to fulfil CPD and revalidation requirements. The toolkit also includes posters and videos for clinical waiting areas and patient information leaflets, particularly relevant during 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **3.2 Suspected urinary tract infections (UTIs) in care home residents**

Do not request or perform urine dipsticks as part of UTI diagnosis in elderly care settings: Dipsticks become more unreliable with increasing age over 65 years. By 80 years of age, half of older adults in care, and most with a urinary catheter, will have bacteria present in the bladder/urine without an infection. This "asymptomatic bacteriuria" is not harmful, and although it causes a positive urine dipstick, antibiotics are not beneficial and may cause harmful side effects.

The TARGET toolkit includes a helpful diagnostic flow chart for suspected UTI in catheterised adults or those over 65 years [LINK](#)

#### **3.2 Healthier Together website [LINK](#)**

The website and app provide advice for parents, young people (0 – 18yrs) and pregnant women, and clinical resources to support healthcare professionals. Some of the Healthier Together safety netting and parent information sheets include:

- [Pneumonia](#)
- [Coughs/colds children under 1](#)
- [Coughs/colds children 1 and over](#)
- [Acute otitis media](#)
- [Tonsillitis](#)

#### **3.3 South Central Antimicrobial Network (SCAN) guidelines: [LINK](#)**

Please consider bookmarking the local SCAN guidelines link on your computer. These are also available to download on mobile devices via the MicroGuide app. [Install the MicroGuide app (Horizon Strategic Partners Ltd) and then select the **South Central Antimicrobial Guidelines**]



### **3.4 Community Pharmacy Quality Scheme guidance 2022/23 [LINK](#)**

Community pharmacy contractors have quality improvement criteria around antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) to support delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan. See link p32. The AMS criterion is to use two national leaflets from TARGET “Treating your infection” for

- Treating your infection – Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) [LINK](#) and
- Treating your infection – Respiratory Tract Infection (RTI) [LINK](#)

to support community pharmacy staff with responding to symptoms of infection.

### **3.5 Health Education England (HEE) Resources [LINK](#)**

HEE have produced a range of educational resources to promote awareness of antimicrobial resistance, encourage those prescribing, dispensing and administering antibiotics to do so responsibly and with an understanding of antimicrobial resistance.

The [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) and Infections programme](#) has been designed to support health and care staff – both clinical and non-clinical – in a variety of settings to understand the threats posed by antimicrobial resistance, and the ways they can help to tackle this major health issue.

### **3.6 Make the pledge to become an antibiotic guardian [LINK](#)**

Watch the two-minute [YouTube](#) clip by Dr Chris van Tulleken and share with your patients, family and friends. Pledge to do one thing differently to improve antimicrobial stewardship this coming week.

### **3.7 NHS System Oversight Framework (SOF) Antimicrobial Prescribing Metrics**

The national NHS SOF antimicrobial stewardship metrics for 2022-2023 are

- Total Antibiotics/STAR PU : at or less than 0.871
- Co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and quinolones as a proportion of all antibiotics at or less than 10%

Please actively review your antibiotic prescribing data (available on ePACT, PrescQIPP or from your local Medicines Optimisation teams) to help identify areas for improvement and support achievement of the metrics.

### **3.8 Webinars for World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022**

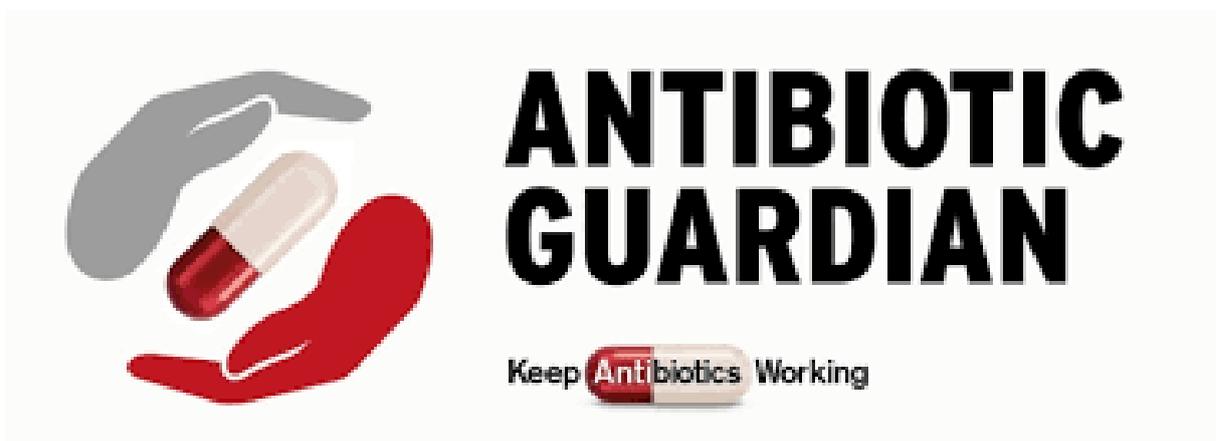
The Antimicrobial Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation (APMO) team, part of NHS England’s national Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) programme, have organised a series of webinars to support World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022. The webinars will take place between Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November but will exclude Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Register via the NHS England Events website: <https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/>

## Webinars for World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022



The Antimicrobial Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation (APMO) team, part of NHS England's national Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) programme, have organised a series of webinars to support World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022. The webinars will take place between Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November but will exclude Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Each webinar will shortly be available for registration via the NHS England Events website: <https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/>

Date and time	Theme	Speaker(s)	Session Chair and moderators:
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b> 12.30-1.30pm	'Prevention' (including Infection Prevention and Control measures and vaccination)	<b>Professor Mark Wilcox</b> , Professor of Medical Microbiology, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust <b>Lisa Ritchie</b> , Head of Infection, Prevention and Control, NHS England	<b>Dr Naomi Fleming</b> , Regional AMS Lead (East of England), NHS England <b>Dr Kieran Hand</b> , AMR: National Pharmacy & Prescribing Clinical Lead, NHS England
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> 3-4pm	'Antimicrobials in clinical practice' (antibiotic course length, promoting shorter course length, empiric prescribing, intravenous -oral switch, promotion of current clinical guidelines).	<b>Dr. Brad Spellberg</b> , Chief Medical Officer, Los Angeles County -University of Southern California Medical Center	<b>Dr Conor Jamieson</b> , Regional AMS Lead (Midlands), NHS England <b>Laura Whitney</b> , Regional AMS Lead (London), NHS England
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> 12.30-1.30pm	'Optimising diagnostics' (increasing understanding of established and innovative methods of detection of infection, antibiotic-resistant or otherwise)	<b>Dr Rosemary Stevenson</b> , Science & Policy Lead, Office of the Chief Scientific Officer <b>Dr Jane Freeman</b> , National Clinical Lead for AMR Diagnostics, NHS England	<b>Preety Ramdutt</b> , Regional AMS Lead (South East), NHS England <b>Angela Davis</b> , Deputy CSO
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b> 12.30-1.30pm	'Antimicrobial resistance and the environment/sustainability and research' (linking AMR with environmental considerations, such as disposal of antibiotics and environmental contamination).	<b>Dr Naomi Fleming</b> , Regional AMS Lead (East of England), NHS England <b>Laura Whitney</b> , Regional AMS Lead (London), NHS England	<b>Dr Kieran Hand</b> , AMR: National Pharmacy & Prescribing Clinical Lead, NHS England <b>Gill Damant</b> , Regional AMS Lead (North West), NHS England
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b> 12.30-1.30pm	'Antimicrobials and untrue or spurious allergy' (including issues such as untrue penicillin allergy labels and de- labelling spurious antibiotic allergy labels).	<b>Dr Nicola Jay</b> , Consultant Paediatric Allergist, Sheffield Children's NHS Trust <b>Dr Louise Savic</b> , Consultant Anaesthetist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	<b>Prof. Phillip Howard</b> , Regional AMS Lead (North East & Yorkshire), NHS England <b>Jonathan Sandoe</b> , Associate Clinical Professor, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



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Previous bulletins can be found at: <https://www.hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk/your-health/medicines-optimisation/information-health-care-professionals/hiow-medicines-optimisation-bulletins>