

Prescribing Tip for Information

World Antimicrobial Awareness
Week:
18th – 24th November 2022



Antibiotics
Antivirals
Antifungals
Antiparasitics

**PREVENTING ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE TOGETHER**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a major threat to human health around the world. Researchers estimated that AMR in bacteria caused an estimated 1.27 million deaths in 2019. ⁽¹⁾

This week (18th – 24th November 2022) marks the launch of the 2022 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW). This annual campaign, led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. The WHO's 2022 campaign theme for WAAW is 'Preventing antimicrobial resistance together', highlighting that fighting AMR is a global endeavour.

In primary care, the **Northwest region has the highest volume of antibiotic prescribing** compared to any other region in England. In the Chorley, South Ribble & Preston locality, the volume of antibiotic prescribing has shown a **continuous increasing trend upwards** over the past 12 months. (data source: epact2 dashboard)

Antimicrobial Stewardship Messages for Healthcare Professionals:

- Prescribe an antibiotic only when there is likely to be clear clinical benefit, giving alternative, non-antibiotic self-care advice, where appropriate.⁽²⁾ See this interactive [self-care toolkit](#)
- Limit prescribing over the telephone to exceptional cases. ⁽²⁾
- To avoid inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in the context of COVID and other viral infections, it is recommended to follow [current NICE guidelines](#) to infer if pneumonia has a COVID, viral or bacterial cause. Treat coughs, fever and breathlessness related to COVID in line with [clinical guidance](#), not with antibiotics – please consider the COVID-19 and flu pathway for diagnosis, testing and clinical management. ⁽³⁾
- Ensure treatment is in line with antimicrobial prescribing guidelines: [NICE/PHE Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidance for Managing Common Infections](#). These primary care guidelines can now also be found on [Central Lancashire Medicines Formulary, Chapter 5: Infections](#)
- Encourage patients to return unused antimicrobials to their nearest pharmacy for safe disposal and NOT to flush antimicrobials down the toilet OR share with others. ⁽³⁾

For information about WAAW activities, stories, and resources see:

[WHO World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022](#), including the WAAW global colour campaign: [Go Blue for AMR](#)



- References:** 1. Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators. (2022). Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. The Lancet; 399(10325): P629-655. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02724-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02724-0)
2. PHE. Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance: managing common infections. Context, references & rationales. May 2021
3. UKHSA. WAAW and EAAD. Resources toolkit for healthcare professionals in England. 28th October 2022

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips, please contact Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net