

Prescribing tip for information

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18th - 24th November) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (18th November)



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) takes place every year and are public health initiatives aimed at encouraging responsible use of antibiotics in order to tackle the global issue of antibiotic resistance.

WAAW, EAAD and Antibiotic Guardian (a campaign led by Public Health England) support the aims of the [UK 5 year Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance 2019 - 2024](#) and the [UK 20 Year Vision for Antimicrobial Resistance](#), which sets out actions to slow the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented numerous additional challenges when managing patients with infections. Now, more than ever raising awareness of the risks of antimicrobial resistance remains important as healthcare professionals continue to work together to prevent serious infections – including COVID-19 as well as reducing inappropriate antibiotic use.

With the ongoing challenge of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, if healthcare professionals can only carry out two simple actions during WAAW the following is recommended:

- Access and share Public Health England's [Antibiotic Awareness Digital Resources](#) for healthcare professionals: these resources support the antibiotic guardian campaign.
- [Choose or renew your pledge](#) on the antibiotic guardian website

For Antibiotic Guidelines refer to national guidance: [NICE/PHE Managing Common Infections: Guidance for Primary Care](#)
 A link to NICE/PHE guidelines can also be found via the Medicines Optimisation Page of [Sharepoint](#).
 To avoid inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in the context of COVID-19 see [Covid-19 Rapid NICE Guidelines](#).
 For adults in the community follow [current NICE guidelines](#) to infer if pneumonia has a COVID-19, viral or bacterial cause



References:

1. Public Health England: World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) & European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD): Resources toolkit for healthcare professionals in England in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. October 2020.
2. Antibiotic Guardian: WAA Week and EAAD: resources toolkit for healthcare professionals.

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