

## In This Issue

- **Cheshire & Merseyside AMR board work highlights**
- **TARGET Toolkit update**

## Key Links

[Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) - GOV.UK](#)

Contains:

- Strategic publications
- Clinical or technical guidance and publications
- Resources for healthcare professionals
- Resources for livestock professionals
- Research
- News

## TARGET Antibiotic Toolkit

An antimicrobial stewardship toolkit and resources for Primary Care in the UK. Produced by The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

## Start Smart & Then Focus

An antimicrobial stewardship toolkit and resources for hospitals in England. Produced by PHE.

## Fingertips

A repository of interactive profiles and indicators covering a wide range of health and wellbeing themes including antimicrobial stewardship and resistance. It is aimed at commissioners and strategic planners. Run by PHE.

## Dental Health

"Antibiotics Don't Cure toothache" Stewardship is hosted by PHE and FGDP RCS, BDA websites

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## C&M AMR board work - final meeting & work highlights

At a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the Co-Chairs of the AMR Board and the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) of the Prevention Board opened the meeting by explaining that this would be the Board's last formal meeting. From April 2021 there will be one Joint Oversight & Improvement Board co-chaired by Deborah Turner, Clinical Quality Director NHS England/NHS Improvement North West and Hilda Gwilliams, Senior Clinical Lead supporting COVID-19 NHS England/NHS Improvement (previously there have been three Boards - GNBSI, Oversight & Improvement and the AMR Board).

It was noted how grateful the Co-Chairs of the AMR Board and the SRO of the Prevention Board are of the support, contribution and hard work of Board members. In particular, thanks was given to the individual colleagues who have undertaken work to address key AMR issues in local areas and within professional groups over the last few years.

The AMR programme of work will also conclude at the end of March 2021. The Specialist AMR Team, who have supported the Board's AMR action plan since July 2019, have worked together to conclude areas of collective working and to produce a report of this work. This report will now be finalised. It is intended that this report will be shared by the SRO of the Prevention Board and the Co-Chairs of the AMR Board, with the Cheshire & Merseyside HCP, and that further consideration will be given to how AMR work within Primary Care across the sub-region can be taken forward. An update would then be given to the Oversight & Improvement Board.

Below are some highlighted examples of the AMR Boards work:

- *C&M AMR Bulletin* – published monthly and sent to all GP Practices and Medicines Management teams. The full range of bulletins can be accessed following this link [AMR Bulletins](#). Note that this March Bulletin is the last one.
- *World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) November 2020* - All Specialist team members supported the WAAW/ EAAD (European Antibiotic Awareness Day). The Medicines Management AMR leads ensured all relevant tools and communications were fed to CCGs across Cheshire and Merseyside to support local planning arrangements.
- *Remote Prescribing Guidance* - a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the potential for increased inappropriate use of antimicrobials. A summary of best practice for remote prescribing based on latest evidence and following the antimicrobial stewardship principles was produced and shared in January 2021.
- *TARGET Toolkit Training* - Medicines Management AMR leads attended TARGET 'Train the Trainer' workshop at the Royal College of Physicians (RCGP), London. Following this, all local areas were offered the delivery of bespoke TARGET toolkit workshops by the Medicines Management AMR leads.
- *Recurrent Urinary Tract Infection (UTIs) audit* – A recurrent UTI audit designed by St Helens' CCG MMT was rolled out across GP practices in Halton, Warrington & Knowsley CCGs. This was facilitated by the AMR specialist team, with support from urology specialists within local hospital trusts, and an education session was provided. Progression of roll out has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic but local MMTs now have access to the audit to be completed as part of work plans as appropriate.
- *Virtual Reality training and downloadable video scenarios* (password AMR2020) - A virtual reality simulated learning package for prescribers has been developed with the learning scenarios also available for download to smart devices. The learning scenarios cover the following prescribing areas: cough, sepsis, recurrent UTI, uncomplicated UTI & sore throat ([see October 2020 bulletin for more information](#)).

## TARGET & Remote Consultations

The move to remote consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on primary care antimicrobial prescribing. The total volume of antimicrobials prescribed is below pre-pandemic levels due to a number of factors. However, a remote consultation is more likely to generate a prescription for antimicrobials than a face-to-face consultation. It is unlikely that primary care will see a return to the pre-pandemic volume of face-to-face consultations in the longer run as both HCPs and the public have adapted to new ways of consulting. [GMC](#) and [RCGP](#) have produced general guidance on remote consultation but they do not specifically address the issue of antimicrobial prescribing and AMR.

TARGET (Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools) have recorded two [webinars](#) (expand Target Training Resources on menu) which aim to help prescribers identify key decision points for remote management of common infections e.g. ENT, Urinary, Cough, COVID-19, insect bites. The webinars cover:

- Key decision points for the remote management of common infections and who is most likely to benefit.
- How and why antibiotics are used and the link between antibiotic use and resistance in patients.

### TARGET Toolkit Distribution List

Using and adapting the range of resources within RCGP [TARGET Antibiotics Toolkit](#) provides a practical and safe way of minimising unnecessary antibiotic prescribing.

You can choose to sign up to the TARGET quarterly newsletter, which includes information about their research activity and findings, new resources, conferences and events and/or to receive occasional emails about research on topics that interest you. Complete the registration form online [here](#).

## New and Recent Publications

### [Antibiotic prescribing in general practice during COVID-19 - The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#)

National Health Service England (NHSE) publishes monthly data on national appointment activity in general practice. This article highlights the changes in the number & type of appointments during the COVID-19 pandemic from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 with the absolute number being 21% lower than the corresponding time period in 2019. The number of antibiotic prescriptions made in general practice 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 was 15.48% lower than the figure for the corresponding period in 2019. However, given the decrease in absolute number of appointments over this time, this number of prescriptions is 6.71% higher than expected, a statistically significant increase ( $p < 0.0001$ ).

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