

BY EMAIL ONLY

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

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Please share this email and newsletter with all staff working in your practice including locums

Dear Colleague

This year we celebrate [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week](#) (WAAW) from 18-24 November 2022. The theme **‘Preventing antimicrobial resistance together’** highlights that fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global endeavour and must be addressed through a One Health approach.

The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness of global AMR and to encourage best practices among the general public, health care staff and policy makers, to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

As we enter the winter months WAAW is a timely reminder that front-line health and social care staff should reinforce the responsible use of antibiotics, both in practice and in the promotion of self-care to your patients.

Patients should be reminded that:

- Antimicrobials—including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and parasitic - are medicines used to prevent and treat infections and they are becoming increasingly ineffective.
- Antibiotics will not treat/control viral infections such as colds, flu and COVID19
- Antibiotics can cause side-effects, including nausea and diarrhoea.
- Overuse of antibiotics increases the risk of spreading serious infections as bacteria become resistant to antibiotics.
- Antimicrobial resistance leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality.
- Good hand hygiene can help limit the spread of infections.
- Vaccines and the correct use of antibiotics will help preserve the effectiveness of vital medical treatments.
- As a first step in the treatment of dental bacterial infections, use local measures.
- Only use antibiotics in conjunction with, and not as an alternative to, local measures.

For advice on the appropriate prescribing of antimicrobials, refer to the SDCEP clinical guidance “Drug Prescribing For Dentistry” at the link below:

<https://www.sdcep.org.uk/media/2wleqInr/sdcep-drug-prescribing-for-dentistry-3rd-edition.pdf>

For further information from the World Health Organisation, visit:

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week/2022>

Yours sincerely



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