



Health and  
Social Care



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

# TARGET Antibiotic Checklist Brief Intervention Service

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Health and  
Social Care

Community Pharmacy  
**Living Well**  
Campaign



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## Stay well this winter



This campaign ran throughout December 2024 and January 2025. The evaluation report is available at [Community Pharmacy Campaign Evaluation Report](#)



### Key messages:

- Winter vaccinations
- Antibiotic resistance
- Self-care



Over **60,150**  
**patients** engaged  
across **505**  
**pharmacies**



**427** pharmacies  
reported the public's  
feedback as **positive**  
or **very positive**



**211** pharmacies  
referred into  
community pharmacy  
**vaccination services**



**201** pharmacists  
reported an increase  
in **flu vaccinations**



**144** pharmacists  
reported an increase  
in **COVID vaccinations**



**61** referrals into  
**Pharmacy First Sore**  
**Throat**

## Feedback from contractors

"This campaign allowed for discussions around **avoiding unnecessary antibiotics.**"

"It would have been better to **start this campaign in October** to help us to promote the winter vaccinations when they launched."

"This was a good opportunity to chat about **antibiotic resistance.**"

"We felt that this campaign should have **started earlier** before the winter pressures kicked in."

"The self-care messages helped reinforce **good antibiotic stewardship.**"

## Living Well campaign 2025



- Campaign runs throughout **October and November 2025**.
- Aims to help the public prepare for the winter months by encouraging them to take actions to protect their health.
- All resources available at [Living Well - Business Services Organisation \(BSO\) Website](#).

## TARGET Antibiotic Checklist

- ❖ TARGET = Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education and Tools.
- ❖ Sits within RCGP TARGET antibiotics toolkit [hub](#).
- ❖ A tool designed to support responsible antibiotic prescribing and patient education in community pharmacy settings.
- ❖ Used since 2020 across community pharmacies in England as part of the Pharmacy quality scheme (PQS).
- ❖ Findings have been published in [Antibiotics](#)



# TARGET antibiotic checklist brief intervention service



Service aims to:

- Use the TARGET antibiotic checklist in **clinically assessing** suitability of prescribed antibiotics.
- Facilitate individualised, evidence-based **patient counselling** following dispensing of an antibiotic prescription.
- **Signposting** into flu vaccination services, where appropriate.



# TARGET antibiotic checklist brief intervention service

- ❖ Checklists are to be completed over a 4 week period between 6<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- ❖ Coincides with the launch of the Autumn flu vaccination programme.
- ❖ Will support activities during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) which runs 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November.
- ❖ [Service specification](#) is on the BSO Living Well webpage.



## For completion by the patient

[illegible]

# For completion by the pharmacist

for Pharmacy team

## Checklist points

Date this checklist was completed:

Assessing the antibiotic prescription. *Please tick as appropriate.*

I have checked	n/a	yes	no
... for allergies, risk factors, other medication interactions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... treatment with the same antibiotic in the previous 3 months.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>This information is collected from page 1.</i>			
... the antibiotic against the local guidance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... the antibiotic is appropriate for the infection indicated.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... the dose is correct for the indication and patient.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... the duration is correct for the indication.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I have contacted the prescriber about this antibiotic prescription. *Please write the reason and outcome below.*

The following antibiotics have been dispensed

<input type="radio"/> none	<input type="radio"/> Amoxicillin	<input type="radio"/> Flucloxacillin	<input type="radio"/> Nitrofurantoin
<input type="radio"/> Doxycycline	<input type="radio"/> Clarithromycin	<input type="radio"/> Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V)	
<input type="radio"/> Metronidazole	<input type="radio"/> Trimethoprim	<input type="radio"/> Co-Amoxiclav	
<input type="radio"/> other <i>Please specify the antibiotic in the space below.</i>			

Giving advice on antibiotics. *Please tick as appropriate.*

	n/a	yes	no
I have discussed antibiotic resistance with the patient/carer as the patient has had the same antibiotics in the last three months.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have checked the patient responses to the statements overleaf and given advice as required.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Tick the circles next to the statements opposite when the advice has been given.*

*Please continue overleaf* →

Staff complete on preparation and hand out of prescriptions. Retain for audit.  
Antibiotic Checklist version 3 (Northern Ireland). Published July 2025.

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for Pharmacy team

To access the TARGET Antibiotics patient leaflets, scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.RCGP.org.uk/TARGET-patient-leaflets](http://www.RCGP.org.uk/TARGET-patient-leaflets)

  

SCAN ME

I have given the following patient information leaflet:

<input type="radio"/> UTI	<input type="radio"/> UTI for older adults	<input type="radio"/> dental
<input type="radio"/> RTI	<input type="radio"/> RTI pictorial	<input type="radio"/> other
<input type="radio"/> managing common infections (self-care)		

Administering the flu vaccine. *Please tick as appropriate.*

<input type="radio"/> I have discussed flu vaccine eligibility with the patient
<input type="radio"/> I have given the flu vaccine on site

The Antibiotic Checklist has not been fully completed because:

- ☐ the patient's representative did not know the information.
- ☐ the antibiotics are supplied by delivery service.  
*Consider including a patient information leaflet with the prescription.*
- ☐ the antibiotics are already dispensed.
- ☐ the patient declined.
- ☐ other reason. *Please write the reason in the space below.*

  
**TARGET**  
Keep Antibiotics Working

  
**ANTIBIOTIC  
GUARDIAN**  
Keep Antibiotics Working

  
**Health and  
Social Care**

Staff complete on preparation and hand out of prescriptions. Retain for audit.  
Antibiotic Checklist version 3 (Northern Ireland). Published July 2025.

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## TARGET resources

- ❖ All TARGET resources will be delivered with the Living Well 'Stay well this winter' campaign materials by **25<sup>th</sup> September**.
  - TARGET antibiotic checklists
  - TARGET antibiotic checklist user guide
  - Antibiotic prescription screening and counselling sheet
  - Antibiotic prescription screening and counselling sheet user guide
- ❖ If you have not received these materials this date email [reception.pha@hscni.net](mailto:reception.pha@hscni.net) **immediately to report missing items**.
- ❖ Deadline for reporting missing materials is **8<sup>th</sup> October**.
- ❖ Electronic copies have also been emailed.

## Key points for service delivery

- ❖ **25** checklists are to be completed over **any four week period** between **6<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November**.
- ❖ If 25 are not completed in four weeks, the time period can be extended for an additional two weeks, but all must be completed by **30<sup>th</sup> November**.
- ❖ Forms to be uploaded digitally via MS form.
- ❖ Deadline for submission of completed checklists is **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.



TARGET

Keep  Antibiotics Working



## Remuneration

- ❖ The [service contract](#) must be completed and returned by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**.
- ❖ Set-up fee of £200 to each contractor providing the TARGET Antibiotic Checklist Brief Intervention service.
- ❖ Payment of £15 per completed TARGET antibiotic checklist.
- ❖ NB Payment will only be made upon receipt of **25 completed** TARGET antibiotic checklists.