

**From:**

**Michael Donaldson**  
**Head of Dental Services**

**By email to:**

All NI GDPs

Strategic Planning and Performance  
Group  
182 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 1QB

18 November 2025

Dear Colleague,

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a significant global threat to human health and to the longevity of modern medicine. [World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week](#) (WAAW) runs from 18 to 24 November every year. This year's theme is "**Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future.**"

Tackling AMR is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play. We need to continue to work together to prevent serious infections through infection prevention and control measures, while reducing the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials. Attached is the Northern Ireland Medicines Management Antimicrobial Supplement. It includes a number of useful resources including information on WAAW and the 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign.

**Dentists should reinforce the following messages with their patients:**

- Don't save antibiotics for later or share with anyone else
- Take antibiotics as directed by your healthcare professional
- Take any unused antibiotics to your pharmacy for safe disposal

For advice on the appropriate prescribing of antimicrobials, refer to the SDCEP clinical guidance "Drug Prescribing For Dentistry" at the link below and the relevant sections of the BNF.

*Reduce inappropriate prescriptions.*

*Reduce resistance.*

*#AntibioticGuardian  
#KeepAntibioticsWorking*

<https://www.sdcepidentalprescribing.nhs.scot/>

Further information around dental prescribing is available at

<https://bso.hscni.net/directorates/operations/family-practitioner-services/dental-services/contractor-information/dental-prescribing-guidance/>

Yours sincerely

Michael Donaldson  
Head of Dental Services SPPG



[World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025](#)