

2nd November 2018

Dear Colleague,

World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) (12-18 November, 2018) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) (18th November 2018)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is increasingly threatening the future of public health worldwide. New resistance mechanisms emerge and spread globally threatening ability to treat common infectious diseases. This results in death and disability of individuals who, until recently, could continue a normal course of life. Without effective anti-infective treatment, many standard medical treatments will fail or turn into very high risk procedures¹.

The need to accelerate progress in tackling AMR is well established and the UK 5 -Year AMR strategy sets out the UK's priorities and objectives in combating this significant public health threat².

Community Pharmacists are important partners in the work to tackle AMR; we would like to **THANK YOU** for your ongoing effort in tackling AMR. This year, as we approach the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD; 18th November 2018) and World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW; 12 - 18 November 2018), we encourage you to use EAAD, WAAW and Antibiotic Guardian materials to help improve antimicrobial stewardship locally and launch plans for awareness raising or educational events at your pharmacies.

Materials such as crossword and quizzes which can be given to waiting patients are available to print from the PHE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-quizzes-and-crosswords> and <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working>.

Other suggestions include:

- Becoming an "Antibiotic Guardian" and sharing this by including it on your email signature for one week (12-18 November 2018) to coincide with WAAW, encourage all members of staff at the practice (clinical and non-clinical) to pledge and proudly display your certificates in patient facing areas of the practice² <https://antibioticguardian.com/>
- E-learning activity to update knowledge of both clinical and non-clinical staff – Health Education England (HEE): Reducing Antimicrobial resistance <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/antimicrobial-resistance/how-to-access>
This E-learning activity is an introduction aimed at all health and social care staff, and a myriad of resources to support awareness and education of clinical and non-clinical staff on antimicrobial resistance in different care settings. This can be completed by healthcare assistants, administrators, receptionists and practice managers³.
- The University of Dundee and The British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) Managing Antibiotic Resistance provides the following for in- depth learning⁴ <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antimicrobial-stewardship>.
- For more information and national resources, please visit PHE antibiotic awareness resources <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-resources>



For details of how you can do more locally please contact Zafiat Quadry, Senior Pharmaceutical Advisor, HVCCG (Antimicrobial Lead), zafiat.quadry@nhs.net

Thank you in advance for your support in helping to promote this important initiative.

References

- 1) World Health Organisation (WHO). Antimicrobial resistance Factsheet <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/>
- 2) Public Health England, Letter to NHS, Local authority and professional organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464786/SD_DS_MD_-_Primary_Care_ver2.pdf
- 3) Health Education England (HEE): Reducing Antimicrobial resistance <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/antimicrobial-resistance/>
- 4) University of Dundee and The British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) Managing Antibiotic Resistance <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antimicrobial-stewardship>

Yours Sincerely,



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