

Nov 2022

MEMO TO ALL CLINICAL STAFF



**“Antimicrobial resistance is not a future threat looming on the horizon. It is here, right now, and the consequences are devastating” (Director-General of WHO, Dr Margaret Chan, 2014)**

Antibiotic resistance (AMR) is one of the biggest threats to global health today. It is rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world. It is compromising our ability to treat infectious diseases and undermining many advances in health and medicine. It can affect anyone, of any age, in any country.

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in response to the use of antibiotics. While this happens naturally, the over-use and misuse of antibiotics has accelerated the process, leading to record high levels of antibiotic resistance.

- ❖ AMR causes people to have longer lasting, more difficult to treat infections, resulting in prolonged hospital admissions and more deaths
- ❖ People who receive inappropriate or ineffective treatment for their infections at an early stage are more likely to be admitted to hospital and more likely to have longer lengths of stay, and so addressing it aids NHS recovery
- ❖ If we don't address increasing rates of AMR, treatments and procedures we have today will become riskier e.g. hip replacements, c-sections
- ❖ Communities and cohorts with wider poor health or health inequalities are more likely to have significant ill-health from infections
- ❖ Addressing AMR is as much about preventing and limiting infections as it is about prescribing practice



Each November, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Visit the following website for WHO-designed patient and healthcare staff aimed posters, and also to inform WHO of what activities your department are participating in to mark the week:

[World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/antimicrobials-awarerecognition)

[World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022 - campaign guide \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/antimicrobials-awarerecognition/campaign-guide)

### **European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD)- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



The European Antibiotic Awareness Day is an annual European public health initiative that takes place on 18 November to raise awareness about the threat to public health of antibiotic resistance and the importance of prudent antibiotic use. The latest data confirms that across the European Union the number of patients infected by resistant bacteria is increasing and that antibiotic resistance is a major threat to public health.

Details on how you and your team can get involved are on the EAAD website

[Plan a campaign \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu/antimicrobials)

On 17 November from 11:00 to 12:00 CET, a **press conference** will take place, around the latest data on antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial consumption in the EU/EEA. [Register for the press conference.](#)

On 17 November from 13:00 to 16:00 CET, there will be the **EAAD digital launch event** with the theme “*preventing antimicrobial resistance together*”. It will feature high-level keynote addresses as well as a scientific panel – they will all provide an overview of the

current situation in the EU/EEA regarding policy, data and measures needed to continue addressing antimicrobial resistance. This event is free of cost and open for the public. [Register here for the digital launch event.](#)

## Antibiotic Guardian



# BECOME AN ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN

Keep **Antibiotics** Working

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Public/ scientists/ healthcare professionals can choose a simple pledge on how they can make better use of antibiotics and help lessen the risk of them becoming obsolete

Visit <https://antibioticguardian.com>

Please share the contents of this memo with your teams and patients.

Also follow the Comms teams on social media who will be highlighting the campaigns

**It is not too late to reduce the impact of antibiotic resistance and we all have a part to play in preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics. By reducing the spread of infections and changing how we produce, prescribe and use these medicines we can reduce the impact and limit the spread of antibiotic resistance.**

Maleeha Bari, Medication Safety Officer and Medicines Management Pharmacist  
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