Antibiotics: handle with care!



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Antibiotic resistance keeps increasing in Europe, threatening patient safety in all healthcare settings The emergence
of bacteria resistant
to multiple groups of
antibiotics is particularly
concerning, as infections
due to these bacteria can
be severe, costly and
sometimes fatal

Only 70 years after the introduction of antibiotics, we are facing the possibility of a future without effective antibiotics

Up to half of all antibiotic use in hospitals is unnecessary or inappropriate



Antibiotic stewardship programmes can contribute to reduce antibiotic resistance in healthcare settings

Antibiotic stewardship programmes can be established by following

a set of actions

Get the leadership from your setting on board: ensure support and allocation of staff and resources



Appoint leaders: one for the overall programme and one in charge of antibiotic use



Form your team: include prescribers as well as infectious disease specialists, clinical pharmacists and



Find and use tools: e.g. antibiotic guidelines and policies, electronic systems, pre-approval and post-authorizations forms for specific antibiotics

Track and report back:

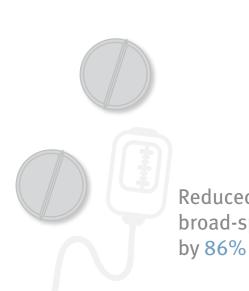
audit proactively antibiotic prescriptions and monitor antibiotic resistance trends, then provide feedback to the team



Ensure training and education:

for medical, pharmacy, laboratory, nursing, and nonclinical staff, as well as patients and their families







Reduced inappropriate prescribing by 96%

Reduced use of broad-spectrum antibiotics



Reduced overall expenditures by 80%



Reduced length of stay or mortality by 65%

Hospitals that implemented an antibiotic stewardship programme reported these improvements:



Reduced healthcare-associated infections by 71%

Reduced antibiotic resistance by 58%

If you would like to know more about the antibiotic stewardship programme in your hospital, contact [email address] or call [phone number]. See more information at [hospital website].

The statements in this infographic are supported by scientific evidence. Visit http://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu or scan the QR code.