

Remember!

European Antibiotic Awareness Day

Antibiotics: handle with care!

- Antibiotic resistance is a global public health threat that can affect everyone: you, me, our family members.
- Without antibiotics, we will not be able to treat simple infections.
- You have a responsibility to keep antibiotics working!

▶ **European Antibiotic Awareness Day** is marked each year on or around **18 November**.

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Nurses



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

All the statements in this leaflet are supported by scientific evidence. Visit <http://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu> or scan the QR code.



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Facts

- 1 Resistance to antibiotics keeps increasing. This issue threatens the health and safety of patients in all healthcare settings in Europe.
- 2 The emergence of bacteria resistant to multiple groups of antibiotics is particularly concerning, as they can be severe, costly and even fatal.
- 3 Up to a half of all antibiotic use in hospitals is unnecessary or inappropriate.
- 4 You are responsible to ensure that antibiotics remain effective.

Actions that you can take to tackle antibiotic resistance:

As a **nurse**, you have a responsibility to ensure that antibiotics remain effective. In your role, you can:

- Improve antibiotic administration practices in collaboration with doctors and pharmacists.
- Follow infection prevention and control measures that are established in your setting.
- Ensure that patients (and their families) understand the reason for antibiotic therapy, and key points related to antibiotic use, including to:
 - a. take antibiotics exactly as prescribed;
 - b. never save antibiotics for later use;
 - c. never use leftover antibiotics from previous treatments; and
 - d. never share leftover antibiotics with other people.
- Ensure that cultures are appropriately taken and send to the microbiology laboratory, before starting antibiotics.
- Ensure that laboratory results are promptly communicated to the treating physician.
- Prompt prescribers to document their reviewing decision for all patients on antibiotics after 48 – 72 hours.
- Inform the prescriber or pharmacist if you see a patient has an antibiotic prescription which has continued beyond seven days without specified duration.
- Participate regularly in training courses and meetings on prudent antibiotic use, specimen collection, and infection prevention and control.

