

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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**Hospital
prescribers**



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 **hospital prescriber**, you have a responsibility to ensure that antibiotics remain effective. In your role, you must:

- Prescribe according to hospital guidelines for common infections and for surgical prophylaxis;
- Identify relevant individual patient background when evaluating the need for an antibiotic prescription, including recent antibiotic use, drug allergies, use of immunosuppressive therapy, recent hospitalisation or institutionalisation, recent travel outside of Europe, and microbiology results for the previous 3 months;
- Document the indication for antibiotic treatment, drug choice, dose, route of administration and duration of treatment, in the patient chart, when you prescribe an antibiotic;
- Follow infection prevention and control guidance;
- Ensure that relevant cultures are taken timely.
- Re-evaluate treatment after 48–72 hours, or when results from microbiological samples are available;
- Initiate antibiotic treatment as soon as possible in patients with severe infection;
- Consider local microbiology and antibiotic resistance patterns when prescribing empirical antibiotic treatments;
- Inform your patients of any antibiotics prescribed, and their potential adverse effects;
- Participate in annual training courses on prudent antibiotic use.

