

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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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.



**Infectious disease
specialists**



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Antibiotics: handle with care!

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 an **infection disease specialist**, you have a responsibility to ensure that antibiotics remain effective. In your role, you can:

- Support the development and implementation of an antibiotic stewardship programme within your organisation.
- Promote local guidelines on managing infections and using antibiotics. These should be readily and reliably accessible to all healthcare providers.
- Check that antibiotic prescriptions follow antibiotic treatment protocols, based on evidence-based guidelines.
- If you see staff members at the hospital or healthcare setting who breach guidelines or protocols, ask them why they are doing so and provide them with tools to understand what they are doing wrong.
- Provide feedback and advice to prescribers on diagnostic evaluation

and treatment of infectious diseases.

- Regularly train hospital prescribers on prudent antibiotic use and participate in meetings on implementing evidence-based hospital antibiotic guidelines.

