

Remember!

- 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**.

## European Antibiotic Awareness Day

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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.



# Antibiotics: handle with care!



**Physicians in long-term care facilities**



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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 a **physician in a long-term care facility**, you have a responsibility to ensure that antibiotics remain effective. In your role, you can:

- Implement infection prevention and control measures.
  - Educate medical and nursing staff about areas where antibiotic misuse is common, such as antibiotic prophylaxis and excessively long durations of treatments.
  - Ensure that residents (and their families) understand the reasons 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;
    - d. Never share leftover antibiotics with other residents or other people.
  - Reassess antibiotic treatments in light of clinical conditions at 48–72 hours, or as soon as microbiological results are available.
  - Only start antibiotic treatment if there is evidence of a bacterial infection.
- Promote vaccination programmes for residents and staff.
  - Regularly participate in training courses and in meetings that support the implementation in the hospital of prudent antibiotic use, local antibiotic guidelines, and infection prevention and control measures.
  - Organise educational events and campaigns that provide residents with information on prudent antibiotic use.
  - Regularly organise audits/surveys of antibiotic prescribing practices and of healthcare-associated infections.

