

Antibiotics: handle with care!

Intensive care unit
physicians

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

As an intensive care unit physician, you have a responsibility to use antibiotic prudently and to ensure that they remain effective. In your role, you must:



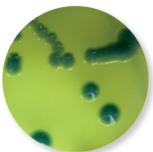
Follow infection prevention and control guidance



Prescribe according to evidence-based hospital antibiotic guidelines for common infections and for surgical prophylaxis



Initiate antibiotic treatment as soon as possible in patients with severe infection



Ensure that relevant cultures are taken



Avoid unnecessary antibiotic prophylaxis



Re-evaluate treatment after 48–72 hours, or when results from microbiological samples are available



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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]



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

