

## World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) (18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

The 2024 theme, **Educate. Advocate. Act Now**, encourages everyone to educate themselves about antimicrobial resistance (AMR), advocate for bold commitments, and take concrete actions to combat AMR. By making informed choices, we can help prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance and protect future health.

In NW London, a key objective is to improve awareness and understanding of AMR through effective guidance, communication, education and training.

### Top TEN ways you can help to combat AMR and promote safer antimicrobial use:

1. **Prevent Overuse:** Prescribe antimicrobials appropriately and advise patients on self-care and self-limiting conditions.
2. **Prevent Misuse:** Ensure prescriptions are appropriate and adhere to local guidelines.
3. **Educate Patients:** Inform patients about the effective use of antimicrobials, including self-care and self-limiting conditions. Counsel them on how antimicrobials work and distribute educational materials utilising the [TARGET toolkit](#).
4. **Train Your Team:** Provide ongoing education and training for your team on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS).
5. **Promote NHS Resources:** Encourage the use of NHS initiatives such as Pharmacy First for the seven clinical conditions and the influenza vaccination program.
6. **Become an Antibiotic Guardian:** Pledge to support the better use of antibiotics by visiting the [Antibiotic Guardian website](#). This is open to all primary care health care professionals and staff working in GP practices.
7. **Raise Awareness:** Participate in campaigns like World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, display posters, engage on social media, attend virtual webinars and promote Antibiotic Guardian pledges.
8. **Audit Stewardship Activities:** Regularly review and audit your practice's antimicrobial stewardship activities.
9. **Join the NW London Teams AMS Champions Channel-** If interested, please email [nhsnwl.mpt@nhs.net](mailto:nhsnwl.mpt@nhs.net) with 'AMS Champion' as the subject.
10. **Utilise the NW London Back-up (delayed) Antibiotic Prescribing for Minor Infections Resource Pack:** This resource can help determine the need for antimicrobials and is available at the following link: [click here](#).

### Key dates for your diary- WAAW Webinars 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Date and Time	Webinar	Further information
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Antibiotic-sparing strategies for recurrent UTI	To access recording <a href="#">click here</a>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Behind the scenes - driving improvements in WaRe antibiotic use in hospitals	To access recording <a href="#">click here</a>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Blood Culture Pathway Optimisation – Update and translation into practice	To access recording <a href="#">click here</a>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Launch of the English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance Report 2023 to 2024	To access recording <a href="#">click here</a>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> (12:30- 13:30)	Recognising infection and improving antibiotic use in people with a learning disability or autism	To register <a href="#">click here</a>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> (12:30- 13:30)	Launch: Resource for Prescribing Improvement Schemes Concepts	To register <a href="#">click here</a>

Our request is for your continuous commitment to promoting appropriate use of antimicrobials through effective stewardship. With your assistance, we will rise to the national and global challenge of fighting antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you for your support.

North West London Medicines Optimisation Team