

In This Issue

- **Cheshire & Merseyside AMR Activities Update**
- **AMR sources of information, recent evidence / intelligence and guidance**

Key Links

[Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) - GOV.UK](#)

Contains:

- Strategic publications
- Clinical or technical guidance and publications
- Resources for healthcare professionals
- Resources for livestock professionals
- Research
- News

[TARGET Antibiotic Toolkit](#)

An antimicrobial stewardship toolkit and resources for Primary Care in the UK. Produced by The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

[Start Smart & Then Focus](#)

An antimicrobial stewardship toolkit and resources for hospitals in England. Produced by PHE.

[Fingertips](#)

A repository of interactive profiles and indicators covering a wide range of health and wellbeing themes including antimicrobial stewardship and resistance. It is aimed at commissioners and strategic planners. Run by PHE.

[Dental Health](#)

“Antibiotics Don’t Cure toothache” Stewardship is hosted by PHE and FGDPRCS, BDA websites

If you have any questions regarding C&M AMR work or this Bulletin, please contact:

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Cheshire & Merseyside (C&M) AMR Activities

- Good progress has been made towards objectives outlined in our action plan:
 - Antibiotic prescribing, particularly the number of prescriptions issued per person/year in primary care continues to decline across C&M.
 - Single Antibiotic Prescribing Formulary for Cheshire & Merseyside has been drafted and will be shared soon.
 - Review of point of care testing (POCT) evidence for upper respiratory tract infections have commenced.
 - The development of virtual reality (VR) training for cough; sore throat; UTI and sepsis is being finalised, & the training materials will be pilot tested next.
 - All three areas have made good progress in developing local action plans.
 - Governance arrangements for public health management of gram negative blood stream infections and sepsis across C&M have been agreed.

Local AMR Resource

- [Germ Wars](#): A series of educational comic books about AMR, developed by artists & scientists at the University of Liverpool & John Moores University. Read about the adventures [here](#) [A great resource for public engagement].

New and Recent Publications

- [CPE Framework Consultation](#): PHE has published a draft *Carbapenamase producing enterobacterales (CPE): framework of actions* for consultation. This framework provides information to providers of health & social care on how the spread of CPE can be minimised [here](#).
- [Antibiotic prescribing without documented indication](#): A cross sectional study of 28,332 sample visits representing 990.9 million ambulatory care visits across the US published in the BMJ [here](#) reported that 18% (24 million antibiotic prescriptions) had no documented indication. The authors noted that antibiotic prescribing in the absence of a documented indication may severely bias national estimates of appropriate antibiotic use in this setting. Sulfonamides and UTI agents were most likely to be prescribed without documentation.
- [Penicillin Allergy](#): A recently (Dec 2019) published [review](#) in New England Medical Journal concluded that more than 95% of patients labelled as having penicillin allergy can safely receive penicillin when they are appropriately and safely evaluated. The incidence has not increased worldwide in the past 50 years. De-labelling patients who no longer have penicillin allergy will control the use of alternative and more expensive antibiotics, reduce the associated morbidity and mortality, and the surge of organisms that are resistant to penicillin and beta-lactams.

Next AMR Board Meeting

Wednesday 1st April 2020, 14:00 – 16:00 at Halton Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TD.