

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 FGDP/RCGS, 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

- **Virtual Reality (VR) learning piloting phase** – the filming is now complete and post production work will be completed towards the end of February 2020. We will be pilot testing the VR headsets with the learning scenarios during March 2020 and aim to roll out the VR training resources and downloadable videos April to May 2020. The Learning scenarios cover: recurrent and uncomplicated UTI; cough; sore throat; and sepsis.
- **The single antibiotic formulary work** is now nearing conclusion. This will be out shortly for local adoption across Cheshire & Merseyside. The planned next steps for this working group would be to arrange a meeting with the AMR lead pharmacists and formulate our priorities for further review work.
- **Pharmacy antibiotic checklist** – C&M AMR Board members are working with NHS England and PHE colleagues to consider and develop an approach in Cheshire & Merseyside to be able to implement a pharmacy antibiotics checklist within community pharmacies. The pharmacy antibiotic checklist is developed by PHE Primary Care and Interventions Unit, HCAI & AMR Division.
- **Target Toolkit:** The medicines management team members of the AMR Board are providing information and support around the use of the Target Toolkit and delivering some direct training sessions as requested. If you wish to access Target Toolkit training, please contact your local medicines management leads: Emma Wilson for Area - 1 Liverpool and Sefton CCGs [emma.wilson@merseycare.nhs.uk]; Jessica Mellor for Area 2 - Warrington, Halton, Knowsley and St Helens CCGs [jessica.mellor@nhs.net]; and Sarah Roden for Area 3 - Cheshire, Vale Royal and Wirral CCGs [sarah.roden@nhs.net].

New and Recent Publications

- There is a drive to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescribing in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) exacerbations, in whom there is a high level of antibiotic use.
- A randomised control trial published recently in *New England Journal of Medicine* [Here](#) involving 649 adults with a flare-up of COPD attending 86 general practices in the UK found that fewer patients in the C Reactive Protein (CRP) testing guided group reported antibiotic use than in the usual-care group (57.0% vs. 77.4%; adjusted odds ratio, 0.31; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.20 to 0.47).
- CRP-guided prescribing of antibiotics for exacerbations of COPD in primary care clinics resulted in a lower percentage of patients who reported antibiotic use, with no evidence of harm.
- This study provides strong evidence to suggest that rapid point-of-care CRP testing may help with antibiotic stewardship, without compromising patient safety. The findings seem likely to influence future guidance and practice.

Next AMR Board Meeting

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