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

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

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Cheshire & Merseyside AMR Activities – Update

Substantial reduction in prescribed antibiotics achieved across Cheshire & Merseyside:

- STAR-PU [Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex weightings Related Prescribing Unit] is an indirectly standardised ratio that removes confounding effects of age and sex. All CCGs across Cheshire & Merseyside achieved a substantial reduction in antibiotics use as measured by the twelve-month rolling total number of prescribed antibiotic items per STAR-PU over the last 12 months. [Here](#) This reflects all the hard work of all healthcare professionals across Cheshire and Merseyside - well-done to everyone and keep up the good work!

Warrington, Halton, Knowsley and St Helens CCGs

- A pilot review of UTI prophylaxis including long term trimethoprim, nitrofurantoin and cefalexin was undertaken in Knowsley (n=42). A third of these patients were found to have had previous resistant culture results to the antibiotics they were taking; and in 36 patients (86%) their long term UTI prophylaxis was stopped.

Liverpool and Cheshire

- A new regional guidelines for management of recurrent UTI are currently under review. The aim is to amalgamate existing guidelines from Liverpool and Cheshire. The draft guidelines are now out for consultation within the region (in progress).
- Educational session on AMR, including Gram-negative bacteraemias and antibiotic prescribing targets, for neighbourhood GPs in south Liverpool delivered.
- Audit of microbiology result reporting, including interpretative comments and appropriateness of sensitivity reporting, by Liverpool Clinical Laboratories underway (May 2019 – ongoing).

New and Recent Publications

British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) recently published an e-book on antimicrobial stewardship. The Editor in Chief outlined that the e-book does not aim to provide comprehensive review of AMR Stewardship or comprehensive literature review of the evidence. Instead, the focus is on application to clinical practice with illustrations of good practice articulated through case studies, stories, videos, podcasts, presentations, practical narratives and self-assessment exercises. [Here](#)

PHE has been awarded £5.1 million to create a virtual ‘open access’ centre, which will gather real-time patient data on resistant infections, helping clinicians understand when to use and preserve antibiotics in their treatment. Read the blog to find out more. [Here](#)

NICE guidance on leg ulcer infection: antimicrobial prescribing is currently out for consultation (23rd June - 23rd July 2019). [Here](#) Summary: there are many causes of leg ulcer; few leg ulcers are clinically infected; most leg ulcers are colonised by bacteria, but this doesn't delay healing; antibiotics don't promote healing when a leg ulcer is not clinically infected. When choosing an antibiotic, take account of: the severity of symptoms; the risk of complications; and previous antibiotic use. Give oral antibiotics first line if possible, review intravenous antibiotics by 48 hours, and consider switching to oral antibiotics if possible. If a sample is taken for microbiological testing, take from deep within the ulcer after cleaning.

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) shows promise in fight against AMR: The use of WGS can improve the way antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is monitored in food and animals, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) report announced on 5th June 2019. Using WGS, it is possible to identify resistant genes in bacteria as opposed to current phenotypical methods which test bacteria for resistance to specific antibiotics. This has the potential to predict AMR more efficiently, generate more data for epidemiological studies, and create opportunity for better detection of possible new mechanisms of resistance. [Here](#)

Next AMR Board Meeting

Tuesday 3rd September 14:00 – 16:00 at Halton Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TD.