

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

Hōtaka kaitiaki patu huakita

Together we can keep antimicrobials working



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Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

WORLD AMR AWARENESS WEEK (WAAW)

18 – 24 November 2023

World AMR Awareness Week 18 – 24 November 2023

Document the indication for antimicrobial use in the prescription

This helps keep antimicrobials working and improves patient care by facilitating:

- Thoughtful prescribing
- Communication with healthcare providers and with patients
- Timely reassessment of the appropriateness of antimicrobial use
- Reduced patient harm from inappropriate antimicrobial use
- Decreased errors from prescription misinterpretation
- Justification of non-guideline compliant prescribing
- Quality improvement including antimicrobial stewardship



Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Together



- WAAW aims to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance ('AMR').

About AMR:

- AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats, causing over 1.3 million deaths each year. The biggest driver of AMR is use of antimicrobials, including overuse and misuse. AMR compromises routine and complex medical care, such as surgery and cancer treatment, where antimicrobials are needed to manage infection.
- Find tips on steps you can take to help slow AMR below.
- Learn more about AMR from [Mānau Hauora](#), [World Health Organization](#), [Australian Government](#) or [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#).

About WAAW 2023:

Global theme: *Preventing AMR Together*

National theme: *Indications in Antimicrobial Prescriptions*

- 18 organisations have joined together to promote documenting the rationale for antimicrobial use in the prescription. This action can help improve patient care and conserve antimicrobial effectiveness (← see our poster). Be specific – write 'cystitis' or 'pyelonephritis', not 'UTI' or 'infection'. Find our resources [here](#).

What can clinicians do to help slow AMR?

Use antimicrobials wisely

- Only use them if the benefits likely outweigh the harms
- Follow relevant local guidelines – see our news →
- Think the '4Rs' – **R**ight agent, route, dose and duration
- Have a low threshold for seeking advice
- Document the indication and course duration (e.g. review or stop date) in the prescription
- Challenge the veracity of penicillin allergies. See our WAAW 2021 resources [here](#)

Prevent infections and spread of resistant microbes

- Wash hands regularly
- Keep vaccinations up-to-date
- Follow relevant infection control guidelines
- Avoid unnecessary invasive devices, e.g. IV lines, and remove promptly when no longer required
- Encourage safer sex practices
- Ensure safe food handling

National antimicrobial guidelines

Launching in November 2024

- Aotearoa has much duplication in antimicrobial guideline development at district, regional and national levels. This creates inconsistencies and is inefficient. The good news is that a team of clinicians is now working collaboratively across the motu to harmonise the existing guidelines into a national standard for antimicrobial prescribing. The guidelines will be freely available in both mobile and desktop versions.
- The guideline development is part of a suite of projects aimed at promoting effective, safe and equitable antimicrobial use. Find an introductory letter [here](#).
- If you are keen to contribute or are interested in hearing about progress, please contact antimicrobials@cdhb.health.nz.