

IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

Issue No. 16 – April 2019

The Infection Prevention Society have developed this info sheet about the vital role of infection prevention in tackling AMR. Please share with colleagues to increase understanding of this important issue.

#InfectionPrevention #AntibioticGuardian <https://www.ips.uk.net/files/3115/5445/5905/IPS-AMR-poster-v1.pdf>

Preventing infection to tackle AMR



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major threat to modern healthcare

AMR means bacteria developing the ability to survive exposure to antibiotics which are designed to kill them or stop their growth. If we don't urgently address the problem, we may soon be unable to effectively treat common infections.

Infection prevention is key as preventing and controlling infections will lead to fewer antimicrobial drugs being used, meaning less risk of bacteria developing resistance.

Scale of the problem

- AMR is estimated to cause 700,000 deaths globally each year. This could rise to 10 million deaths by 2050 if we fail to act
- 1 in 3 people in England take at least one course of antibiotics each year
- By 2030, the global human consumption of antibiotics is forecast to rise by more than 30%, which will lead to increased resistance

Every infection prevented helps to combat AMR, so health and social care professionals have a critical role

How you can help

- Ensure your hands, instruments, and working environment are clean
- Ensure high standards of care for invasive devices and procedures
- Encourage patients to get vaccinated against preventable illnesses like flu and measles – and ensure you do the same
- Only prescribe and dispense antibiotics when they are needed. Take appropriate specimens to identify the causative organism and tailor antimicrobials based on the results
- Talk to people about when antibiotics should be used, how to take them correctly, and the importance of not hoarding or sharing them
- Report antibiotic-resistant infections to local clinicians
- Don't be afraid to speak up to question the use of invasive devices, procedures or treatments if they are no longer needed

We can help tackle this public health threat by working together to prevent infection

www.ips.uk.net



ips Infection Prevention Society

Minimising infection is a key part of the Government's approach to tackling AMR – for more information, please visit:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773065/uk-20-year-vision-for-antimicrobial-resistance.pdf
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773130/uk-amr-5-year-national-action-plan.pdf

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk 01423 557340



Or, find us on: