

- To: • Chairs, Local Pharmaceutical Committees
• Community pharmacy contractors
- cc. • Regional Chief Pharmacist
• Regional Pharmacy Integration Lead
• Regional Medical Director
• Regional Director of Public Health
• Regional Chief Nurse
• Regional Chief Dentist
• Associate Director for Infection Prevention & Control

NHS England
Midlands Office
23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham
B2 4BH

25 September 2023

Dear Colleagues

Midlands Antibiotic Amnesty 2023

Firstly, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the community pharmacy teams who participated in the Midlands Antibiotic Amnesty, which ran during November 2022. It was another successful amnesty campaign which demonstrated the important role that community pharmacy plays in addressing public health issues.

We are planning to repeat the campaign this November and would like to build upon the success of last year, with your support to make it bigger and better. To this end, we would like to make you aware of the plans that we have made and ask for your support:

1. **The amnesty will run from Wednesday 1 November to Thursday 30 November 2023** and will be advertised via social media and direct to patients and staff in healthcare settings across the local area.
2. **Sign up for free printed campaign resources.** We are asking pharmacies who intend to support the campaign this year to complete an expression of interest to allow us to provide printed resources to up to 100 early adopter pharmacies in each ICS. You can submit your expression of interest via PharmOutcomes now; the module can be found on the services tab and will be submitted to the team when you save your entry. *Please note, you will not receive a confirmation of receipt but you will see your saved entry on the services screen.*

3. **What's involved?** Members of the public will be encouraged to return unused and unwanted antibiotics to pharmacies for safe disposal during the campaign. As with last year's campaign, we are requesting that participating pharmacies collect and submit some simple data, including the number of part/full packs of antibiotics returned and number of people conversed with about the amnesty/safe medicines disposal. The data submitted will provide important information on the impact of the campaign and help us to understand more about how the public use antibiotics. A PharmOutcomes template will be available for you to capture and submit the data. We may use this data in anonymised form for presentations and publications about the amnesty campaign.
4. **Certificates of participation.** All participating pharmacies will receive certificates of participation after the campaign.
5. **Research.** During last year's campaign, MPharm students from De Montfort University and University of Wolverhampton undertook research projects on the medicines that were returned to participating pharmacies. This year, we are hoping to build on the research in conjunction with local Schools of Pharmacy. If you are interested in finding out more about supporting this research, please indicate this on the relevant section of the amnesty expression of interest module on PharmOutcomes.
6. **Environmental impact.** This year we are linking in, via social media, with other environmental campaigns to highlight the environmental importance of disposing of antibiotics appropriately.

Wider support for the antibiotic amnesty campaign

We are grateful to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) for hosting resources for people to run antibiotic amnesty campaigns on their website. You can access the relevant section of the RPS website [here](#), and content now includes digital campaign resources in a number of languages.

The veterinary profession is running a nationwide antibiotic amnesty campaign this year through veterinary practices and a number of key veterinary stakeholders are supporting this – you can find more information [here](#).

Use the **#antibioticamnesty** to spread the word about your participation in the campaign on social media.

Consider inviting your [local MP](#) to your pharmacy during the amnesty campaign to discuss the risks of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the impact of inappropriate disposal of

antibiotics on the environment and the important role community pharmacy plays in promoting public health.

Please note this is not one of the nationally mandated health promotion campaigns for this year, but we do hope you will participate in the amnesty campaign.

If you have any questions about this year's amnesty campaign, please get in touch via email: england.midlands.antibioticamnesty@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

Dr Conor Jamieson, Regional Antimicrobial Stewardship Lead

Richard Seal, Regional Chief Pharmacist

Jackie Buxton, Regional Pharmacy Integration Lead

Donna Cooper, Principal Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist, NHS Black Country ICB

Rakhi Aggarwal, Senior Prescribing Advisor, NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB

Daniel Attry, Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead, NHS Black Country ICB

Shalina Anwar, Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead, NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB