

“Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together”.

We are reminded that to ensure appropriate antimicrobial use, a collaborative approach is required which includes the prescriber and patient. Resources should be used to decrease the expectation and demand from patients for antibiotics and to ensure that they are only prescribed when absolutely necessary. This strategy will benefit the individual patient and the wider population. It will help preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials for future use.

See: [TARGET Antibiotics Toolkit Hub](#)

Top tips during Potential Infection Consultations

- Use Patient Information leaflets not as a “parting gift” but during the consultation to educate the patient
- Explain the likely **duration** of infection
- Provide evidence of likelihood that infection is caused by viruses and so antimicrobials can be at best ineffective but at worst can impart unwanted adverse effects.
- Ensure “**safety netting**” information is given
- If necessary, provide a **delayed** prescription and **read code** this appropriately on the surgery electronic system
- Prescribe the **shortest course** that will be effective - use [NICE guidelines](#) and [local guidance](#) to support the course length.

There are several free RCGP webinars around antimicrobial prescribing available in 2023/24. The first of which is on Wednesday 22nd November - **Acne and COPD exacerbation: Reviewing patients on long term/repeated antibiotics. More information linked [here](#).**

Did You Know?.....

- **Semaglutide (Wegovy®):**
As per [NICE TA875](#) Wegovy® should **ONLY** be recommended within a specialist weight management service providing multidisciplinary management of overweight/obesity. Therefore, currently Wegovy® is **NOT** available to be prescribed within Primary Care.
- In addition, **Ozempic® should NOT be prescribed for off-label use in weight management.** A recent [medicines supply notice](#) and the [NPSA alert](#) on GLP-1 receptor agonists (RAs) both strongly discourage the off label use of GLP-1 RAs for the management of obesity and advise that existing stock must be conserved for use in patients with diabetes.
- **National Self Care Week** 2023 is from the 13th -19th November. This year’s theme is “Mind & Body”. Resources can be found [here](#).
- **The Blood glucose testing strips** preferred prescribing list (PPL) has been updated following [NHS England’s national assessment of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets](#). The [new PPL](#) can be found on the Coventry and Warwickshire APC [netFormulary](#).
- Following queries to the Medicines Optimisation Team, several **devices** have been discussed recently at APC. As a result of this: **TheraBite®** is designated Specialist Only, Oscillating positive expiratory pressure (**OPEP**) devices are Specialist Initiated and **Contiform® and IQoro® are blacklisted**. More information can be found [here](#).

Medicines Advice.....

For local formulary/commissioning medicines-related queries:

Contact your designated ICB Medicines Optimisation (MO) pharmacist / pharmacy technician or the Medicines Optimisation Team at cwicb.mot@nhs.net

Other useful information sources:

The Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS)

Medicines Advice service helpline can be used by all healthcare professionals in primary care to access Medicines Information.

Email queries to asksps.nhs@sps.direct or tel: 0300 770 8564.

Further details can be found below: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/about-sps/get-in-touch/medicines-information-services-contact-details/>

The SPS and PrescQIPP websites (registration required for login) provide a wide range of information including evidence-based clinical guidance. See: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk> and <https://www.prescqipp.info/>

For further information, speak to your ICB MO pharmacist/pharmacy technician.