



BECOME AN ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN

Keep Antibiotics Working

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 18th to 24th November 2025

Invitation to health educators to join the effort to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In the UK despite measurable improvements in antibiotic prescribing there has been a continued rise in bloodstream infections caused by AMR associated infections. In 2019 there were, an estimated, 7,600 deaths directly caused by AMR infections (alongside 35,200 deaths where AMR contributed)¹. Education providers of future healthcare professionals are well placed to support attainment of several human-health targets in the [UK National Action Plan on AMR \(2024-2029\)](#):

- Increase UK public and healthcare professionals' knowledge on AMR by 10% (using 2018 and 2019 baselines, respectively)
- Reduce total antibiotic use in human populations by 5% (from the 2019 baseline).
- Achieve 70% of total use of antibiotics from the Access category (UK adapted category) across the human healthcare system.
- Prevent any increase in Gram-negative bloodstream infections in humans (from the 2019-2020 financial year baseline).

To achieve the human-health targets it is important that our current and future healthcare professionals are educated on the key role they have in preserving the effectiveness of antimicrobials. This email provides some potential actions you and colleagues can take over the year and especially during WAAW (18-24th November 25).

Particularly, to support our national ambition to increase healthcare professionals' knowledge on AMR and in line with the [Health and Social Care Act 2008: code of practice on the prevention and control of infections - GOV.UK](#), it is recommended that antimicrobial stewardship principles are included in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula, and CPD courses alongside infection prevention and control which is already well embedded within curricula.

We recommend that the [seven AMR knowledge questions](#), which are used nationally to assess healthcare professionals' understanding and to monitor progress in tackling AMR, be embedded within relevant education and training programmes. We have developed a [resource](#) that can support this. The [national antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competency framework](#) can be used to identify learning outcomes and areas of focus. There are also profession specific undergraduate / trainee competency frameworks that can be used to map and benchmark courses and identify areas for development available [here](#).

¹ National Audit Office (NAO). *Investigation into how government is addressing antimicrobial resistance*. London: NAO; 26 February 2025

As part of your WAAW activities you are invited to:

- **Register your organisation's planned AMR awareness activities** by 31 December 2025. The form only takes 5 minutes to complete, and you will receive an email with a certificate for your organisation, which we encourage you to display: antibioticguardian.com/organisations. It includes an option to highlight plans about AMR within your curriculum
- **Use the [Keep Antibiotics Working campaign](#) materials in your activities to raise awareness amongst the public.**
- **Use social media:** Use your professional and organisation's social media channels and community networks to engage with diverse population groups to promote key messages on AMR using **#AntibioticGuardian**.
- **Release news items** that showcase the work and achievements from your organisation, that align with the goals of tackling AMR

As the recipient of this invitation, we also invite you to:

- **Forward this email to relevant staff** including the programme leads, heads/chairs of practice, and those involved in teaching and research relating to infection, AMR and antimicrobial stewardship.
- **Forward this email to your communications team** who can coordinate the media activities (suggestions in the [WAAW toolkit](#) and the [educational resources](#)).
- **Encourage colleagues, students and trainees, family and friends and patients** to join over 212,000 individuals who pledged to help to tackle AMR at antibioticguardian.com
- **Engage in WAAW** as a leader

Educational resources to help embed key messages on good antimicrobial stewardship are available [here](#) and via the World AMR Awareness Week ([WAAW](#)) [toolkit](#).

Thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment to tackling AMR and reducing drug resistant infections. If you have any queries, please contact ESPAUR@ukhsa.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Prof Diane Ashiru-Oredope
on behalf of the World AMR Awareness Week Planning Group

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Chair, English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR)

Honorary Chair and Professor of Pharmaceutical Public Health, University of Nottingham

Ps, Join over 200, 500 Antibiotic Guardians who have pledged to do their part to help reduce antibiotic resistance

<http://bit.ly/antibioticguardian>