STARTING SMART

Antimicrobial Stewardship in Focus

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WHAT'S NEW IN GUIDANCE?

Updated guidance in EOLAS released in October:

- Acute UTI
- Recurrent UTI
- UTI in Pregnancy

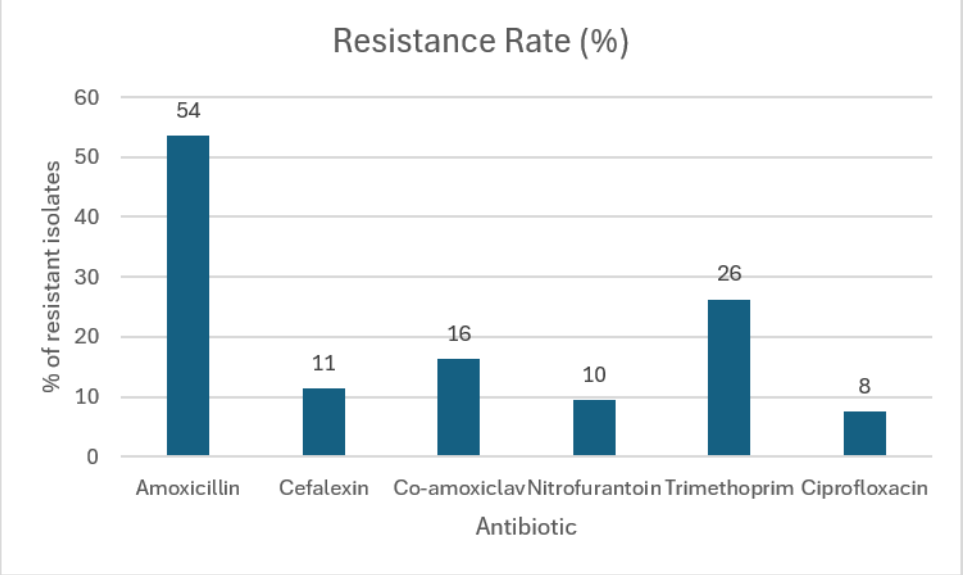
Cefalexin is now included as an oral treatment option in the Acute UTI and UTI in Pregnancy guidelines for patients without severe penicillin allergy, bringing local guidance in line with current NICE recommendations.

MICROBIOLOGY MONITOR

Local data, local guidance: Our antimicrobial recommendations are supported by laboratory susceptibility data from our local patient population.

Antimicrobial susceptibility of urinary coliforms to commonly used oral antibiotics for the treatment of UTI supports the inclusion of cefalexin, nitrofurantoin and trimethoprim in our empirical guidelines for uncomplicated UTI. Data include samples from both hospital and community patients.

Local resistance data help guide empirical treatment, but urine cultures remain important to support targeted antibiotic choice and optimise therapy for individual patients.



AMS ROUND-UP

AMS interventions are making an impact

Over 10 months, **781 patient reviews** were completed, covering **753 IV** and **339 oral antibacterial prescriptions**. Following review, outcomes included **ceasing antibiotics**

(22%), **amending treatment (11%)**, **extending therapy (35%) and IV-to-oral switch (14%)**; 18% required no intervention.

In **2025/26**, AMU saw an **11% reduction in IV antibacterial DDDs** and **10% reduction in spend**, alongside a **10% reduction in oral DDDs** and **12% reduction in spend** compared with 2024/25. Reductions were also seen Trust-wide, although to a lesser extent.

WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS WEEK FOCUS

Ahead of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, let's celebrate the difference antibiotics make—and the part we can all play in protecting them for the future.

Antibiotics have transformed healthcare, making once life-threatening infections treatable. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens this progress, but we all have a part to play in protecting it. Without action, common infections could become harder to treat and routine procedures more dangerous. Patient stories on the Antibiotic Guardian website highlight the impact of AMR on people's lives and remind us why our collective efforts matter.

Join us for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), starting on **18th November**. With webinars, social media posts and ward visits, there are plenty of opportunities to learn, share ideas and get involved.

Come and say hello! The AMS team will join Pharmacy and IPC colleagues in the Atrium on the 18th of November to kick off the week. We'd love you to join us, ask questions and share your ideas.

Make your pledge and become an Antibiotic Guardian. Staff and the public can all help tackle AMR—one pledge at a time. Find out more here

Find an event and get involved! Explore WAAW events at GHFT here, and discover national events here.

LOOKING AHEAD

If you feel your area would benefit from an AMS visit (ward round, education or informal chat), please get in touch.

SHARE • ASK • GET INVOLVED

Send us your ideas and questions.

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AMS links: Antimicrobial Resources