

For healthcare professionals

Talking to your patients about

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE



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Antibiotic
RESEARCH UK

ACTING NOW TO STOP
DRUG-RESISTANT INFECTIONS

Antibiotic-resistant infections are projected to cause 10 million deaths per year by 2050¹. Prescribing fewer antibiotics reduces the rate of antibiotic-resistant infections.²



Shared decision making helps manage patient expectations. Increasingly people trust their healthcare provider's advice and want information on whether or not they need antibiotics.³

- Reassure patients. You want them to have antibiotics when necessary and to be confident they will work when required.
- Discuss how self-care can help them treat their symptoms effectively when antibiotics are not appropriate.
- Provide a delayed prescription if appropriate. Research shows that only one third of patients use a delayed prescription.³
- Use leaflets interactively to provide information on specific infections, stewardship, antibiotic resistance and to stimulate discussion.



I was left in an isolated room with all these questions. I really wanted someone to sit down and explain what it all meant, and what it means for my future?"

Sharon has had sepsis twice due to a resistant urinary tract infection.

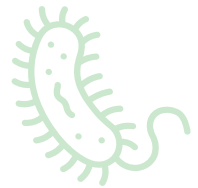


Rachael's story

Rachael had recurrent UTIs unresponsive to antibiotics and eventually resorted to self-treat with natural products. She was unaware she carried the resistant bacterium ESBL *E Coli*, Rachael became severely ill and was admitted to A&E with sepsis. She recovered over the next year with treatment but experienced many post-sepsis symptoms.



I believed I had always used antibiotics correctly, so wouldn't have been at risk of antibiotic resistance. But I realised to my horror that an infection caused by drug resistant bacteria can happen to anybody. Even me!"



- Reinforce the importance of completing the course, not sharing antibiotics and returning unused antibiotics to the pharmacy.
- Ensure patients are clear about how to take their antibiotics and what to do if they experience side effects they cannot tolerate.
- Stress the importance of regular handwashing to reduce the spread of infections.
- Discuss penicillin de-labelling with those who believe they have a penicillin allergy but are unsure if still true. A patient information leaflet on penicillin allergy is available: www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Penicillin-Delabelling-Patient-Leaflet_21Apr21.pdf

Antibiotic Research UK provides the only Patient Support Service specifically for people with antibiotic-resistant infections.



- Confidential phone and email service providing support and evidence based information to answer queries.
- Online groups to reduce isolation.
- Information leaflets on specific infections.
- Support for those caring for a loved one with a drug resistant infection.

We can answer general questions, and provide ongoing support. We do not offer personal medical advice on individual cases or comment on treatment plans.



We have a range of information leaflets to print off for patients.

Use the QR code on the front page, or QR code here for patient information.

Resources



The RCGP
TARGET
toolkit



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