

Our Ref: 000411

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To: CCG Directors of Quality
CCG Directors of Nursing
CCG Medicines Optimisation Leads

5 April 2019

Dear colleague,

Antimicrobial resistance: 2019/20 improvement schemes

I am writing to tell you about NHS Improvement's two new antimicrobial resistance schemes to support NHS acute providers implement the five-year [UK Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) national action plan](#) in 2019/20.

This plan, published by the Department of Health and Social Care on 24 January 2019, includes new targets to tackle antimicrobial resistance:

- halve healthcare-associated Gram-negative bloodstream infections
- reduce the number of specific drug-resistant infections by 10% by 2025
- reduce antimicrobial use in people by 15% by 2024; including a 25% fall in overall use in the community from the 2013 baseline and a 10% fall in the use of 'reserve' and 'watch' antibiotics in hospitals from the 2017 baseline.

The two NHS Improvement schemes supporting delivery of the national plan by acute providers are:

- NHS Standard Contract for acute providers: this now includes the target for 2019/20 of reducing total antibiotic consumption by 1% from the 2018 baseline by the end of Q4 2019/20
- Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) indicators:
 - i. improving the management of lower urinary tract infections in older people
 - ii. improving appropriate use of antibiotic surgical prophylaxis in elective colorectal surgery

We have provided support and guidance for CCGs and NHS acute providers regarding the new schemes on [the NHS Improvement website](#).

Public Health England (PHE) will receive antibiotic consumption data for all NHS acute providers directly from RxInfo Define®. NHS acute providers may wish to continue to submit their data to PHE if there are discrepancies between the RxInfo Define® data and pharmacy dispensing systems. PHE will report both antibiotic consumption and the two new CQUIN indicators in 2019/20 on the PHE AMR Fingertips Portal.

During the 2017/19 'Reducing the impact of serious infections' CQUIN scheme, acute providers have succeeded in improving 72-hour review of antibiotic prescriptions for sepsis, by aligning their local antimicrobial stewardship guidance with that of [Start Smart Then Focus](#). Their performance is reported on the [PHE AMR Fingertips Portal](#). This metric is not in the 2019/20 CQUIN scheme and its reporting to PHE will cease. But we ask you to encourage providers to include it (for all patients prescribed antibiotics, not just those treated for sepsis) within local quality improvement and assurance processes, supporting antimicrobial stewardship improvement within local healthcare systems, AMR networks and collaboratives.

If you have any comments, please contact elizabeth.beech@nhs.net

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Powis', written in a cursive style.

Professor Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England