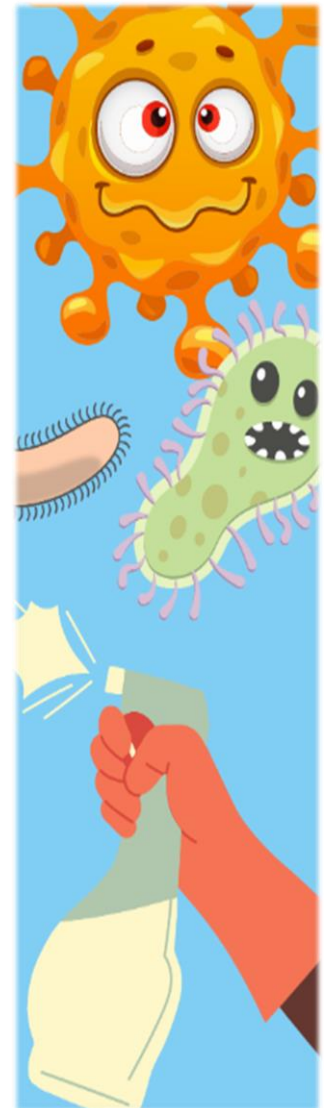
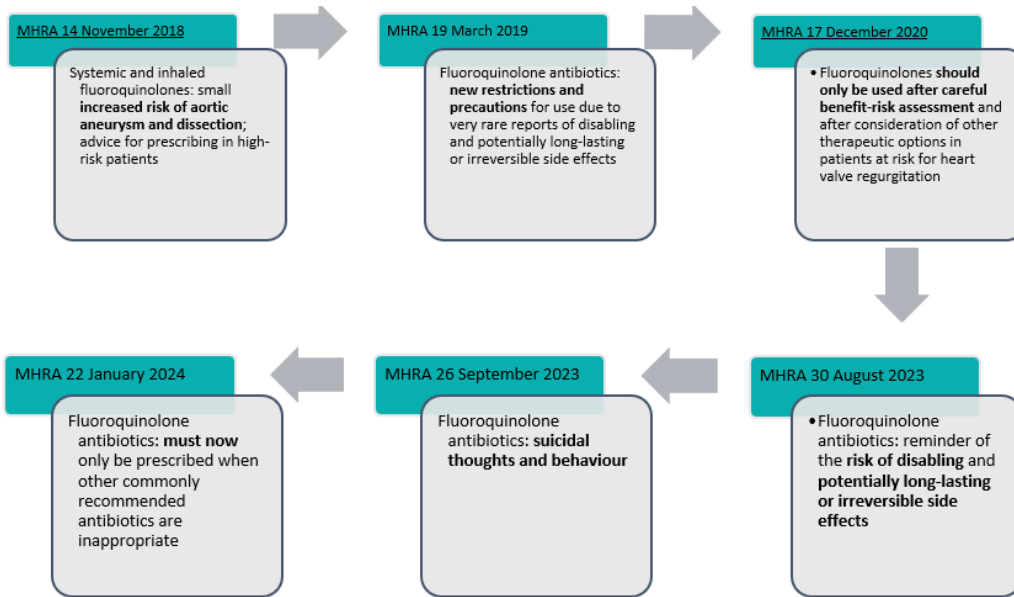


To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team: ✉ bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net
Website: <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/>

Fluroquinolone Stewardship

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been identified as a global public health threat by the World Health Organization (WHO). Inappropriate use of antimicrobials is one of the main driving forces for AMR, fluoroquinolone antibiotics have historically been prescribed for a wide variety of infections, including mild, uncomplicated infections for which alternatives may be preferred. Consequently, increasing antimicrobial resistance has been reported, particularly among Enterobacterales and *Pseudomonas* spp. In addition to driving resistance, fluoroquinolones have been associated with serious adverse effects. A number of MHRA alerts have been published and are illustrated as follows:



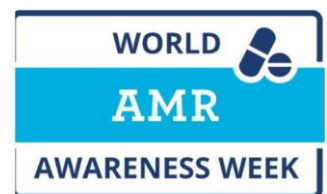
Key Message

Do not prescribe **fluoroquinolones** for

- Non-severe or self-limiting infections, or non-bacterial conditions
- Some mild to moderate infections (such as in **acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis** and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; please refer to revised indications in the Summary of Product Characteristics) unless other antibiotics that are commonly recommended for these infections are considered inappropriate
- Ciprofloxacin or levofloxacin should **no longer be prescribed for uncomplicated cystitis** unless other antibiotics that are commonly recommended are considered inappropriate

Avoid fluoroquinolone use in

- Avoid use of a corticosteroid with a fluoroquinolone** since coadministration could exacerbate fluoroquinolone-induced tendinitis and tendon rupture
- Prescribe with **special caution for people older than 60 years** and for those with **renal impairment** or solid-organ transplants because they are at a higher risk of tendon injury
- Only be used after careful benefit-risk assessment and after consideration of other therapeutic options in **patients at risk for aortic aneurysm and dissection**



18-24 NOVEMBER

Optimise Effective Course Lengths for Antibiotics – Data Update

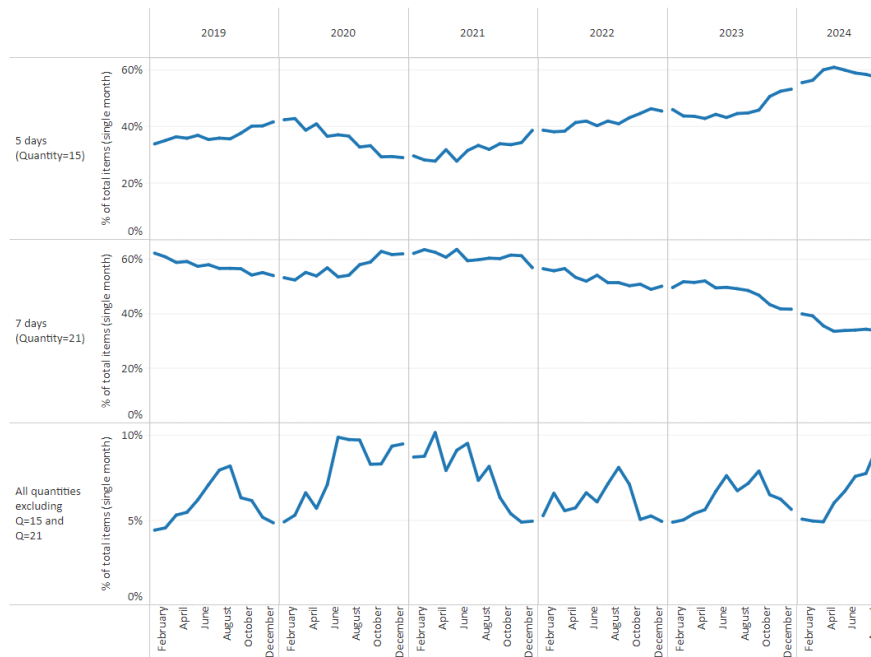
Unnecessarily long courses of antimicrobials are one of the factors driving antimicrobial resistance and an increased risk of clostridium difficile infections in at-risk populations. Research increasingly demonstrates that **short courses of antibiotics** are as effective as longer courses in treating patients with uncomplicated infection ([Lee et al, 2023](#)), ([Garwan et al, 2023](#)).

Reflecting this evidence, [NICE guidance](#) for common infections, routinely recommends the **shortest effective course of treatment**, to reduce selection pressure for antimicrobial resistance and inadvertent patient harm from antibiotic treatment. **Five-day courses** are recommended when antibiotics are indicated for sinusitis, sore throat, COPD infective exacerbation, cough (acute), pneumonia (community-acquired) and otitis media.

In November 2023, we highlighted in another special edition MOP-UP, the recent local and national updates regarding antibiotics treatment course lengths and illustrated examples of common infection conditions, their empirical NICE treatment guidance and supporting clinical evidence. Last years Special Edition MOP UP can be reviewed : [here](#)

This year, **we want to celebrate the dedication and outstanding work** each of you has contributed to. Your commitment has driven our success. Our latest quarter prescribing data shows an over **30%** increase in optimised 5 days amoxicillin treatment course length when compared to the same quarter in 2023, which keep us in line with and continues working towards the UK AMR National Action Plan goal to reduce human exposure to antibiotics in primary care.

Proportion of total Amoxicillin 500mg capsules items prescribed by duration by Integrated Care Board by selected age band over time (single month)



Data Reference: BSW ICB data, PrescQipp – Optimising antimicrobial duration dashboard

!! Alert: Rifampicin Prescribing Safety !!

Rifampicin is an antibiotic commonly used to treat bacterial infections such as tuberculosis (**Red TLS**) and bone & joint infection (**Amber SCA**) based on cultures and sensitivities. It **often prescribed in combination with other antibiotics** to prevent the development of drug resistance. It works by inhibiting bacterial RNA synthesis, effectively stopping the bacteria from reproducing. When prescribing rifampicin, it is essential to exercise caution due to its potential for significant drug interactions and adverse effects. Rifampicin is a **potent enzyme inducer**, which can decrease the effectiveness of other medications by accelerating their metabolism, **particularly oral contraceptives, anticoagulants, and antiretrovirals**. Monitoring liver function is crucial in patients with pre-existing liver conditions or those taking other hepatotoxic drugs. Additionally, patients should be informed about possible side effects, such as orange discoloration of bodily fluids, and instructed to complete the full course to prevent resistance.

See BNF and Stockley's Drug Interactions monographs for interaction mechanism, clinical importance and management advise.

Upcoming NHS England Webinars for Healthcare Professionals

- **Antibiotic-sparing strategies for recurrent UTI** –18th Nov 2024, 16:00-17:00, register your interest: [here](#)
- **Blood Culture Pathway Optimisations** – 19th Nov 2024, 13:30 – 14:15, register your interest: [here](#)
- **English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) Report 2023-2024** – 20th Nov 2024, 14:00-16:30, register you interest: [here](#)
- **Recognising infection and improving antibiotics use in people with learning disability or autism** – 21st Nov 2024, 12:30 – 13:30, register your interest: [here](#)

AMR Training Resources Library

- **British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Training Resources** –The program compiles and provides links to easily accessible, evidence-based antimicrobial stewardship educational materials for medical, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy students and educators [here](#)
- **NHS England e-Learning**– Helping to improve understanding of antimicrobial resistance: [here](#)
- **eBug** – UKHSA lead training resources to support education and childcare setting: [here](#)