



[GP_Name]
[Address 1]
[Address 2], [Address 3]
[Address 4], [Address 5]

October 2018

[practice name] prescribes more antibiotics than [xx]% of practices in England

Dear Dr [GP_Surname]

Antibiotic usage in [practice name]

Antimicrobial resistance is already causing deaths; a patient in the USA died last year with a Klebsiella infection that was resistant to all available antimicrobial drugs.ⁱ We have seen cases of highly resistant gram negative bacteria in the UK. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

I am specifically writing to your practice because the great majority (xx%) of practices in England prescribe fewer antibiotics per head (after adjustments for age and sex) than yours.ⁱⁱ

You prescribed the following antibiotics between 1st June 2017 and 31st May 2018, compared to your peers.ⁱⁱⁱ

[SPACE FOR GRAPH]

I know that general practitioners are doing a demanding job in difficult circumstances and have to deal with patient pressures so, as well as running our national 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign to educate the public, I have made some suggestions for dealing with these pressures in the boxes to the right.

1. SWITCH to narrow spectrum instead of broad spectrum antibiotics, where appropriate. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

2. SUBSTITUTE a prescription for the enclosed TARGET leaflet giving the patient self-care advice to take home with them. A printable version is available at: www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics

2. Offer a DELAYED prescription. This results in fewer patients using antibiotics and is associated with similar symptomatic outcomes to immediate prescription. (Little et al., BMJ. 2014).

3. TELL patients about their personal risks. Discuss side effects (allergic reactions, gastrointestinal conditions) and personal resistance, which may last for up to twelve months after a course of antibiotics (Costelloe et al, BMJ. 2010).

It is the actions of individual prescribers that make up the national picture on antimicrobial resistance. Together, these small changes can have a big effect on safeguarding your patients and antibiotics for future generations.

Your local CCG prescribing advisor can also help your practice reduce antibiotic and broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing. Links to further information are provided below.

Thank you for working with me on this.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PROFESSOR DAME SALLY DAVIES
Chief Medical Officer

ⁱ BMJ 2017;356:j254

ⁱⁱ Your practice's prescribing data are available online at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/amr-local-indicators/data>. Note that practice demographics are accounted for. For more information on antimicrobial resistance, see <http://antibioticguardian.com/>. Patients can be referred to the "Keep Antibiotics Working" film: <http://bit.ly/2xZZ61Y>

ⁱⁱⁱ The data for "Your Peers" refers to the average prescribing in England.



[GP_Name]
[Address 1]
[Address 2], [Address 3]
[Address 4], [Address 5]

October 2018

[practice name] prescribes more antibiotics than 80% of practices in England

Dear Dr [GP_Surname]

Antibiotic usage in [practice name]

Antimicrobial resistance is already causing deaths; a patient in the USA died last year with a Klebsiella infection that was resistant to all available antimicrobial drugs.ⁱ We have seen cases of highly resistant gram negative bacteria in the UK. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

I am specifically writing to your practice because the great majority (80%) of practices in England prescribe fewer antibiotics per head (after adjustments for age and sex) than yours.ⁱⁱ

I know that general practitioners are doing a demanding job in difficult circumstances and have to deal with patient pressures so, as well as running our national 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign to educate the public, I have made some suggestions for dealing with these pressures in the boxes to the right.

It is the actions of individual prescribers that make up the national picture on antimicrobial resistance. Together, these small changes can have a big effect on safeguarding your patients and antibiotics for future generations.

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Thank you for working with me on this.

Kind regards

PROFESSOR DAME SALLY DAVIES
Chief Medical Officer

1. SWITCH to narrow spectrum instead of broad spectrum antibiotics, where appropriate. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

2. SUBSTITUTE a prescription for the enclosed **TARGET** leaflet giving the patient self-care advice to take home with them. A printable version is available at: www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics

3. Offer a DELAYED prescription. This results in fewer patients using antibiotics and is associated with similar symptomatic outcomes to immediate prescription. (Little et al., BMJ. 2014).

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[GP_Name]
[Address 1]
[Address 2], [Address 3]
[Address 4], [Address 5]

October 2018

[Practice NAME] prescribes a higher proportion of broad spectrum antibiotics than xx% of practices in England

Dear Dr [GP_Surname]

Antibiotic usage in [practice name]

Antimicrobial resistance is already causing deaths; a patient in the USA died last year with a Klebsiella infection that was resistant to all available antimicrobial drugs.ⁱ We have seen cases of highly resistant gram negative bacteria in the UK. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

I am specifically writing to your practice because the great majority (xx%) of practices in England prescribe a lower proportion of broad spectrum antibiotics than yours.ⁱⁱ

You prescribed the following antibiotics between 1st June 2017 and 30th May 2018, compared to your peers.ⁱⁱⁱ

[SPACE FOR GRAPH]

I know that general practitioners are doing a demanding job in difficult circumstances and have to deal with patient pressures so, as well as running our national 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign to educate the public, I have made some suggestions for dealing with these pressures in the boxes to the right.

1. SWITCH to narrow spectrum instead of broad spectrum antibiotics, where appropriate. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

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