Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru
Rhif 2 Capital Quarter, Stryd Tyndall,
Caerdydd CF10 4BZ

Public Health Wales
Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street,
Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Dear Community Pharmacy Team,

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as a major concern in the 21st century, leading the World Health Organisation to recognise AMR as one of the top 10 global threats to public health. The evolution of resistance amongst bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites is a huge threat to the prevention and treatment of infection. With few new antimicrobials being developed, those which already exist will begin to lose their effectiveness, rendering even common infections a threat to global health. If a prompt effort is not made to address this crisis, it is estimated that by 2050, around 10 million people will die globally each year as a result of AMR.

The 18th of November is European Antibiotic Awareness Day and falls during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, which runs from the 18th to the 24th of November each year. These initiatives provide a platform for national antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) campaigns and an opportunity to promote the importance of this issue.

Community pharmacy teams have more contact with the public than any other healthcare professional, making them an integral part of the solution to this problem. In order to make every contact count, through the month of November, community pharmacy teams are being asked to use a Community Pharmacy Antibiotic Checklist to engage with the general public in discussion around AMS and self-care strategies. The checklist will aid at each point of the antibiotic prescription journey; hand-in, dispensing and hand-out with the aim of increasing staff's knowledge on optimal antibiotic use and providing advice to patients and carers when dispensing antibiotics. The Antibiotic checklist was piloted in England as part of an initiative with Public Health England, and pharmacy staff indicated that the checklist helped structure the patient discussion around self-care and antibiotic advice.

An E-learning module has been developed to support the use of the Antibiotic checklist by your team and can be accessed on the HEIW website at https://www.wcppe.org.uk/product/antimicrobial-stewardship-for-community-pharmacy/ Access to the HEIW website is via your usual sign in method. We would appreciate it if you could complete this module prior to using the Antibiotic checklist in November.

Accompanying this cover letter, you will find a bilingual Antimicrobial Stewardship pack containing:

- Antibiotic Checklists x 50
- When Should I Worry booklets
- How Can I Manage My Common Infection booklets
- How Can I Manage My Common Infection User Guide
- TARGET Patient Information posters x 2
- Envelope for return of checklists to Shared Services

As well as the pack received in the post, you should also have received an email containing digital versions of the resources enclosed. Resources can be found at: https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/antimicrobial-resistance-and-prescribing-guidance-and-resources/. Here, you will also find an antibiotic counselling sheet, which will help with consultations and completion of the Antibiotic Checklist.

Please return the completed checklists in the envelope provided to Shared Services along with your monthly returns.

Public Health Wales have developed a survey to assess the effectiveness of the campaign and the materials provided. We appreciate that you and your staff are very busy but please consider filling out the survey as your feedback will help us to plan for future campaigns and materials.

Please scan the QR code below or follow this link https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AntibioticChecklistCampaign to access the survey. The survey will be live from the 26th November.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the team at Public Health Wales; their contact details can be found below.

Thank you for participating in the campaign.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Nicholas Reid
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Public Health Wales
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Meryl Davies
Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacist – Primary and Community Care
Public Health Wales
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On-line survey

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AntibioticChecklistCampaign