



An EU initiative supported by the Department of Health

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Dear colleague,

**European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

We are contacting you to highlight the above European-wide initiative.

Antibiotic resistance is linked to the extent and the way in which antibiotics are used. Inappropriate use of antibiotics is the main driver of antibiotic resistance. Studies have shown that hospitalised patients have a high probability of receiving an antibiotic and up to 50% of all antibiotic use in hospitals in the UK is inappropriate. Misuse of antibiotics has been shown to cause patients to become colonised or infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, such as meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant *enterococci* (VRE) and highly-resistant Gram-negative bacilli, as well as being associated with increased incidence of *Clostridium difficile* infections.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most important threats to patient safety in hospitals in Europe; increasing patient morbidity and mortality as well as the average length of stay in hospital. This year, the annual European Antibiotic Awareness Day campaign focuses on working with hospital prescribers, pharmaceutical committees, managers and pharmacists to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use in hospitals.

In order to assist healthcare professionals promote this day, a number of toolkit materials have been created. The hospital toolkit materials are available for download at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/AntibioticResistance/DH\\_120861](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/AntibioticResistance/DH_120861)

We would be grateful to receive feedback on which of these materials were most useful and the various activities planned in individual Trusts (press releases, stands, workshops).


Thank you very much for your support in promoting this day.



Prof Roger Finch  
Chair, ARHAI  
Professor of Infectious Diseases  
Nottingham University Hospitals  
NHS Trust



Dr Clodna McNulty  
Chair, ARHAI Public Education  
Sub-Group  
Consultant Medical Microbiologist  
& Head HPA Primary Care Unit



Prof Brian Duerden CBE  
Inspector of Microbiology &  
Infection Control  
Department of Health

**Please act now European Antibiotic  
Awareness Day on 18<sup>th</sup> November is soon.**

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**ARHAI Secretariat,**

Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope (Pharmacist Lead to ARHAI)  
Health Protection Agency, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF  
Telephone: 020 8327 6689 E-mail: [arhai@hpa.org.uk](mailto:arhai@hpa.org.uk)