



An EU initiative supported by the Department of Health

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Dear colleague,

European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) - 18th 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.

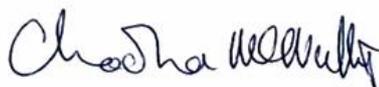
In order to assist healthcare professionals promote this day, a number of toolkit materials have been created. The hospital toolkit materials are available for download at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/AntibioticResistance/DH_120861

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.



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**Please act now European Antibiotic
Awareness Day on 18th November is soon.**

ARHAI Secretariat,

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