

Medicines Management Prescribing Focus – November 2022

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18th to 24th November

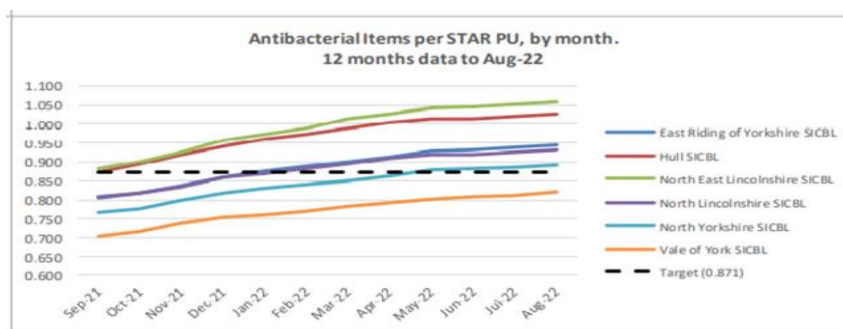
This month we are highlighting ‘European Antibiotic Awareness Day’, which falls on the 18th November each year. The World Health Organisation also runs ‘World Antimicrobial Awareness Week’ (WAAW) in parallel, which takes place from the 18th to the 24th of November. Find out how you can support raising awareness of this important issue in the [WAAW resource toolkit](#).

In North Yorkshire & York we are working on updating our local primary care antimicrobial prescribing guidance, in collaboration with colleagues in the other areas of the newly formed Humber & North Yorkshire Integrated Care System. In the meantime, we ask practices to refer to the national document produced by NICE and Public Health England (PHE): ‘Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance – managing common infections’. This may be found either on North Yorkshire CCG’s [website](#) or on the [BNF website](#).

Of note is that:

- We would advise cefalexin & metronidazole for acute diverticulitis in preference to co-amoxiclav
- Metronidazole is no longer indicated for the treatment of C. difficile infections

The NHSE target for primary care antibiotic prescribing was lowered last year to ‘at or below **0.871**’ to align with the UK AMR National Action Plan ambition to reduce community antibiotic prescribing by 25% by 2024. Antibiotic consumption in the community in England had been trending down since 2014, however this trend has now reversed both nationally and in our local ICS area:



The graph below shows the total number of antibacterial items per STAR-PU prescribed by each practice within North Yorkshire locality for the 12 months to August 2022 (yellow bar) as compared to the 12 months to February 2022 (grey bar). The blue horizontal line on the chart represents the old NHS England target of practices being under 0.965 items per STAR-PU and the orange line represents the new adjusted target.

