

Medicines Management Prescribing Focus – November 2022

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18th to 24th November

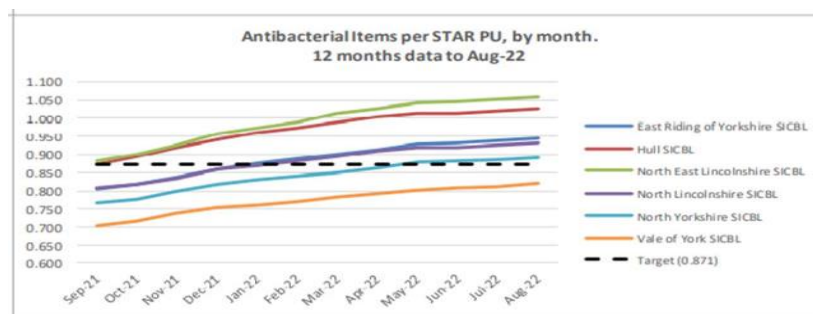
This month we are highlighting ‘European Antibiotic Awareness Day’, which falls on the 18th November each year. The World Health Organisation also runs ‘World Antimicrobial Awareness Week’ (WAAW) in parallel, which takes place from the 18th to the 24th of November. Find out how you can support raising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

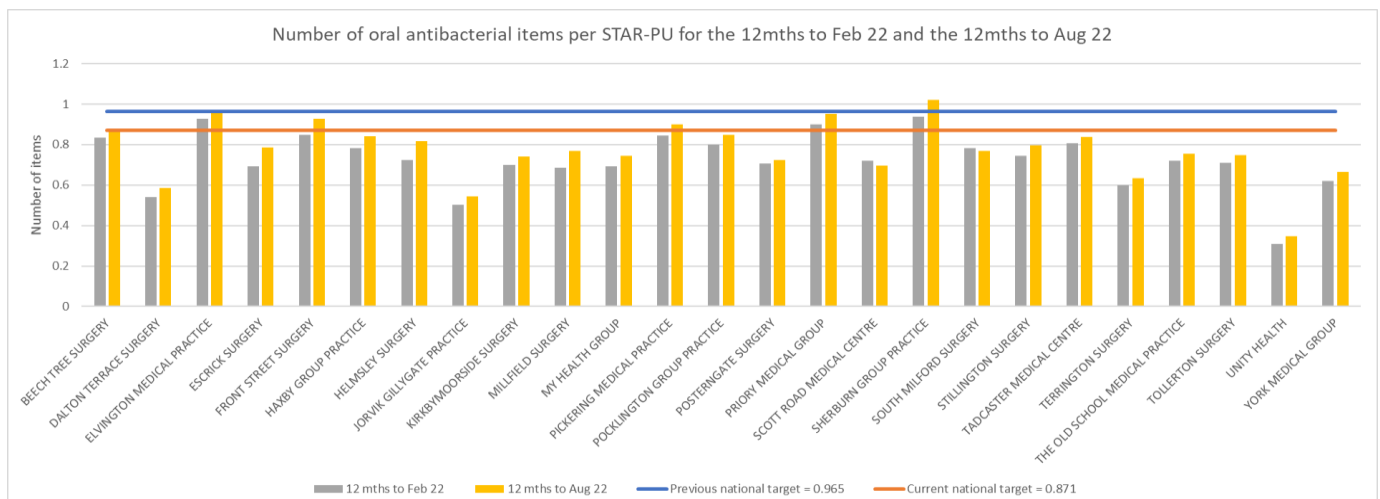
Of note is that:

- 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:

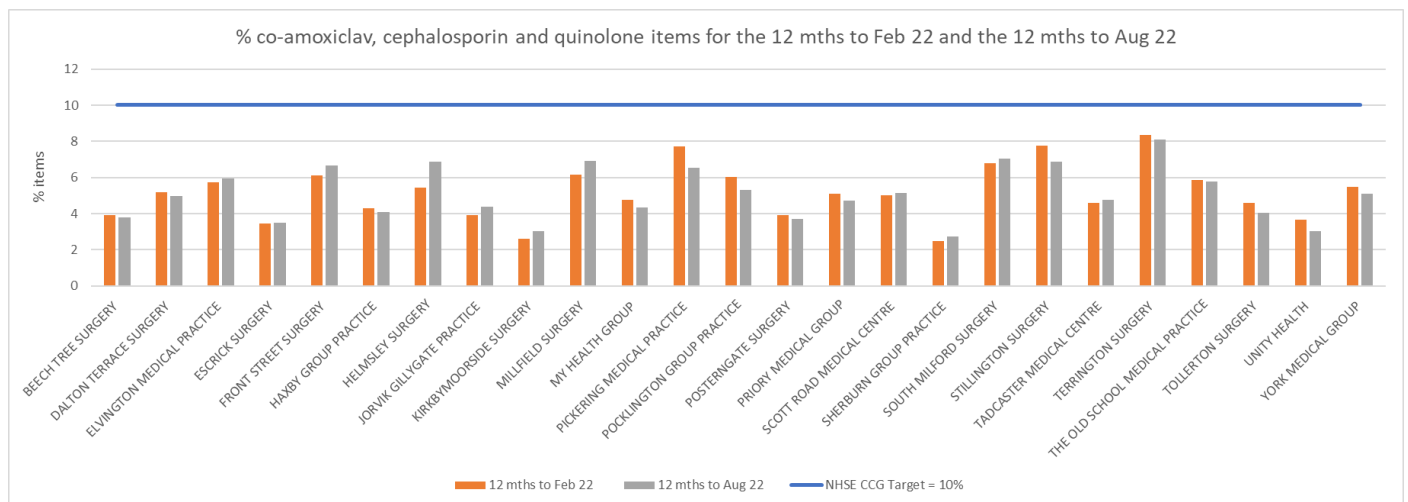


The graph below shows the total number of antibacterial items per STAR-PU prescribed by each practice within the York locality for the 12 months to August 2022 (yellow bar) as compared to the 12 months to February 2022 (grey bar). The blue horizontal line on the chart represents the old NHS England target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



All practices except Scott Road Medical Centre and South Milford Surgery have shown an increase during this timeframe and as noted above this is in line with the national trend. However, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week presents an ideal opportunity to discuss and review antibiotic prescribing with your teams. Good practice amongst the team can be shared and team discussions may encourage prescribers to reflect on how they can reduce the number of antibiotic prescriptions issued. A useful resource is the TARGET webinar series developed by PHE, the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC), and primary care colleagues. There are seven free [TARGET](#) learning modules highlighting key actions you can take to help improve antibiotic prescribing, the patient journey, self-care and reducing future consultations.

The graph below shows the second NHSE indicator for antibiotic prescribing in primary care, which is for the percentage of broad-spectrum antibiotics to be at or below 10% of the total number of all antibiotics prescribed. All York locality practices remain below the target, although some practices have shown an increase in this period.



Reminder 'Do Not Dip' urine samples from the over 65's:

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA - formerly PHE) advise the following in their [guidance on diagnosis of UTI](#): 'Do not perform urine dipsticks in the elderly as they become more unreliable with increasing age over 65 years. By 80 years half of older adults in care, and most with a urinary catheter, will have bacteria present in the bladder/urine without an infection. This "asymptomatic bacteriuria" is not harmful, and although it causes a positive urine dipstick, antibiotics are not beneficial and may cause harm.'

We would also urge all practice staff (this includes non-clinical staff) to consider signing up as an antibiotic guardian if they have not already done so. This campaign was launched to promote collective action from both healthcare professionals and members of the public to work together to attempt to slow the spread of antibiotic resistance: <https://antibioticguardian.com/>

Please share the information in this document with all members of staff in the practice.

For any queries or feedback on this month's prescribing focus please contact the respective teams via: hnyicb-voy.rxlne@nhs.net

The MMT welcomes further ideas and suggestions that you and colleagues may wish to recommend for future prescribing focus editions.

The North Yorkshire and York Medicines Management Team