



Department of Health
Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance
and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI)

Secondary Care Prescriber's Checklist Antibiotics

–Misuse leads to antibiotic resistance

Do not start antibiotics in the absence of evidence of bacterial infection

HANDLE
WITH
CARE!

START SMART:

- ☐ Start prompt effective treatment in patients with life-threatening infection
- ☐ Collect appropriate cultures before starting antibiotic therapy
- ☐ Prescribe in accordance with local antibiotic policies/guidelines and resistance patterns
- ☐ Document indication(s), route, dose and duration for antibiotic prescription on prescription chart and in clinical notes
- ☐ Where antibiotics have been shown to be effective for surgical prophylaxis, give a single dose up to 60 minutes before incision
- ☐ Consult infection expert(s) and/or pharmacists if appropriate

THEN FOCUS:

At 48 hours; **review the patient and make a clinical decision** “the **Antimicrobial Stewardship Decision**” on the need for on-going antibiotic therapy

Does patient's condition and/or culture result(s) necessitate:

- ☐ Stop of antibiotic therapy (if no evidence of infection)
- ☐ Switch from intravenous to oral therapy
- ☐ Change: de-escalation/substitution/addition of agents
- ☐ Continuation - review again at 72 hours
- ☐ Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT)

Document Decision