

# Summary tables and accessible text: Antimicrobial prescribing guidance - managing common infections

# **User Guide**

# **Background**

Since 2017, <u>NICE</u> and <u>UKHSA</u> (then PHE) have published a range of management of common infections guidelines. These guidelines offer evidence-based guidance for primary care and supply recommendations for appropriate antimicrobial use in the context of tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

To implement these guidelines, UKHSA and NICE also have also produced a joint summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance (<u>APG summaries</u>). This tool is currently published in table and text summary and hosted on the TARGET toolkit. It is updated when there are changes or additions to the published APGs specific to antimicrobial prescribing.

## Who can the APG summaries be used by?

- Primary care prescribers in general practice and out-of-hours settings, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists
- Integrated Care Board (ICB) staff who are prescribing advisers or who may be receiving queries from primary care prescribers
- Those giving first point of contact or symptomatic advice for common infections

#### What are the aims of the APG summaries?

To provide a concise and comprehensible summary of current knowledge about management of key common infection. This will support clinicians to:

- · target antimicrobials,
- improve patient care,
- reduce the spread of infection
- and contribute to a reduction in antimicrobial resistance.

#### **Development and review process**

The APG summaries are currently published on the <u>TARGET toolkit</u>. The content is taken from national guidance produced by the national guidance producing agencies linked to in the table row. To find the update and review timetable for the content, you need to return to the full guidance on the author agencies' website. The accessible text summaries for each infection on the TARGET toolkit are developed based on the content in the table and are reviewed and updated when the text in the table summaries changes.

Content under the summaries is updated when the main guidance underpinning the topic is updated, ensuring that there is a minimal amount of time between updates to the main guidance. Always check the guidance on the main page if unsure.

TARGET is operated by UK Health Security Agency. Version: 1.0. Published: Oct 2024. Review date: Oct 2027.

Please ensure you are using the most up to date version of this tool published on the TARGET website.

#### Limitations

This tool is designed to support healthcare professionals and may not account for individual circumstances of patients, nor is it a complete replication of the information. It should not be used as sole basis for decision making, nor replace healthcare professional consultations.

This information is up to date at point of publication, the British National Formulary (<u>BNF</u>) and Electronic Medicines Compendium (<u>EMC</u>) should be reviewed for the most up to date information.

## Local adaptation and considerations

This tool is not all-encompassing. If more detail is needed, we suggest referring to the main guidance for each common infection which is linked to in the table summary or web text. Clinicians should rely on their clinical judgement and use it alongside other professional resources.

This resource was developed for application in England. We would discourage major changes to the tool, but the format allows minor changes to suit local service delivery and sampling protocols.

To create ownership agreement on any resources which are adapted for local use, dissemination should be agreed and planned at the local level between primary care clinicians, laboratories and secondary care providers.

While every care has been taken in the preparation of this resource, UKHSA and the partner organisations shall, to the greatest extent possible under any applicable law, exclude liability for all losses, costs, claims, damages or expenses arising out of or connected with the use of this resource or any information contained within it.

If alterations are made by an end user to this resource for local use, it must be made clear within the amended document where the alterations have been made and by whom. It should also be acknowledged that UKHSA and the partner organisations shall bear no liability for such alterations.

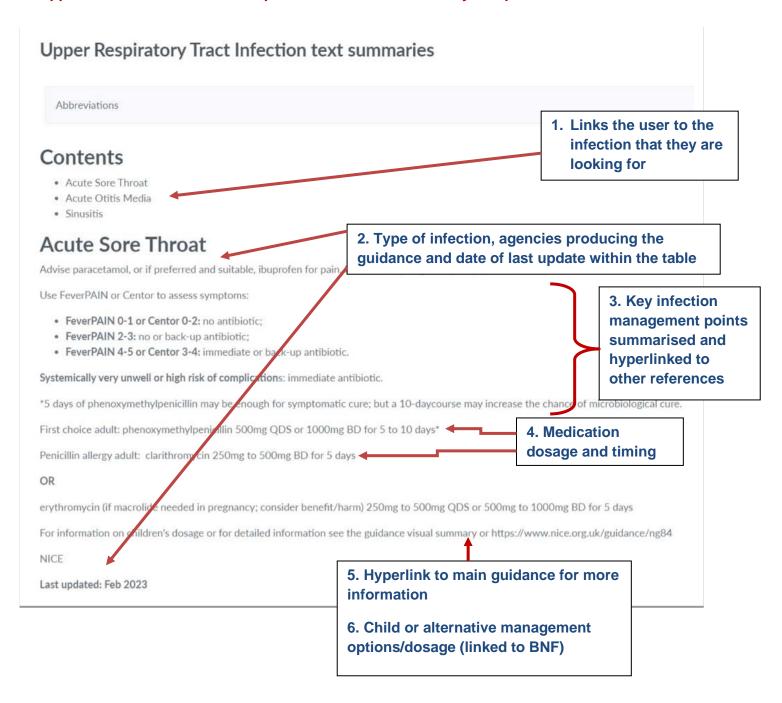
The evidence base and expert consensus recommendations are as complete as possible at the date of issue.

## Other useful resources and user feedback

Please consider using the TARGET patient information leaflets on common infections, (available at: https://www.rcgp.org.uk/TARGET-patient-leaflets) to support Antimicrobial Stewardship.

We are happy to receive feedback about how you have used this resource and any constructive comments on how it can be improved. Please contact us at TARGETantibiotics@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Appendix 1: Information on components of the APG summary text published in web text



# Appendix 2: Information on components of the APG summary table in the published PDF

