



Department of Health

[GP_Name]

[Address 1]

[Address 2], [Address 3]

[Address 4], [Address 5]

March 2017

Your practice is amongst the 20% highest prescribers of antibiotics nationally

Dear Dr [GP_Surname]

Antibiotic usage in your practice

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious and growing threat to our health. Reducing inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in primary care can help prevent a public health catastrophe.

The great majority (80%) of practices in England prescribe fewer antibiotics per head than yours. Most other practices have reduced their prescribing rates since 2013/14 but yours has increased.*

I have written to your practice previously and I understand that this is not a simple issue and you may have already taken steps to reduce antibiotic prescriptions while safeguarding patient health. I encourage you to join prescribers who have reduced their rate of prescribing by taking three simple actions, described on the right.

I know that general practitioners are doing a demanding job in difficult circumstances but if we all make these small changes we can have a big effect on everyone's health and safeguard antibiotics for future generations.

Your local CCG prescribing advisor can help your practice reduce inappropriate antibiotic prescribing.

Kind regards

PROFESSOR DAME SALLY DAVIES
Chief Medical Officer

* Your practice's prescribing data are available online. Data analysed by Public Health England. Figures on the use of antibiotics take patient demographics into account. Comparisons between practices exclude outliers judged to be created by measurement error and do not include out-of-hours services. For more information on antimicrobial resistance, see AntibioticGuardian.com. Patients can be referred to the "Take care, not antibiotics" film: <http://tinyurl.com/znmmaxx>
2013/14 used as baseline comparison period as per most recent Quality Premium guidance

1. ADVISE

Discuss patient self-care instead

Use the enclosed leaflet or search online for the "TARGET antibiotics toolkit".

2. DELAY

Offer a delayed prescription instead

This results in fewer patients using antibiotics and is associated with similar symptomatic outcomes to immediate prescription (Little, P. et al., BMJ. 2014; 348).

3. TALK

Speak to other prescribers in your practice to ensure they are changing their antibiotic prescribing too