[GP\_Name]  
[Address 1]  
[Address 2], [Address 3]  
[Address 4], [Address 5]

October 2018

[practice name] prescribes more antibiotics than 80% of practices in England

**1. SWITCH to** narrow spectrum instead of broad spectrum antibiotics, where appropriate. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

**2. SUBSTITUTE a prescription for the enclosed TARGET leaflet giving the patient self-care advice to take home with them.** A printable version is available at: [www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics)

**3. Offer a DELAYED** prescription.   
This results in fewer patients using antibiotics and is associated with similar symptomatic outcomes to immediate prescription.   
(Little et al., BMJ. 2014).

**4. TELL patients about their personal risks.** Discuss side effects (allergic reactions, gastrointestinal conditions) and personal resistance, which may last for up to twelve months after a course of antibiotics (Costelloe et al, BMJ. 2010).

Dear Dr [GP\_Surname]

**Antibiotic usage in [practice name]**

Antimicrobial resistance is already causing deaths; a patient in the USA died last year with a Klebsiella infection that was resistant to all available antimicrobial drugs.[[1]](#endnote-2) We have seen cases of highly resistant gram negative bacteria in the UK. Broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing is a significant driver of resistance.

**I am specifically writing to your practice because the great majority (80%) of practices in England prescribe fewer antibiotics per head (after adjustments for age and sex) than yours.[[2]](#endnote-3)**

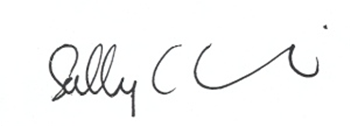
I know that general practitioners are doing a demanding job in difficult circumstances and have to deal with patient pressures so, as well as running our national ‘Keep Antibiotics Working’ campaign to educate the public, I have made some suggestions for dealing with these pressures in the boxes to the right.

It is the actions of individual prescribers that make up the national picture on antimicrobial resistance. Together, these small changes can have a big effect on safeguarding your patients and antibiotics for future generations.

Your local CCG prescribing advisor can also help your practice reduce antibiotic and broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing. Links to further information are provided below.

Thank you for working with me on this.

Kind regards



**PROFESSOR DAME SALLY DAVIES**

Chief Medical Officer

1. BMJ 2017;356:j254 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. Your practice’s prescribing data are available online at https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/amr-local-indicators/data. Note that practice demographics are accounted for. For more information on antimicrobial resistance, see http://antibioticguardian.com/. Patients can be referred to the “Keep Antibiotics Working” film: <http://bit.ly/2xZZ6IY> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)