WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 30 March 2016

STATUS: ACTION & INFORMATION

CATEGORY: QUALITY AND SAFETY

Title: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE DELIVERY PLAN

Date of Expiry/Review: 30 March 2017

For action by Board:
- Chairs
- Chief Executives
- Board Secretaries
- Secretary to the Board Secretary Group
- Nurse Directors
- Medical Directors
- Directors of Public Health
- Infection Control Doctors & Nurses
- Chief Pharmacists
- PHW HCAI & AMR Programme Leads & CCDCs
- CNHS Direct Wales
- NWSSP for distribution to GP practices, community pharmacies & general dental practices
- Ambulance Trust

For Welsh Government action (or information)
- DG/Chief Executive NHS Wales
- Deputy Chief Exec NHS Wales
- Professional & Policy Leads
- DHSS Operations Team
- DHSS Comms Team
- DHSS Digital Team

Action required:
See paragraphs 4 - 7

Senders: Chris Jones, Acting Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director and Jean White, Chief Nursing Officer

DHSS Welsh Government Contact:
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Enclosure(s): None
The use of antimicrobials, especially antibiotics, has transformed medicine and we need them to be effective now and in the future. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens to return us to an era when infections caused significant harm. Tackling AMR is therefore a priority for NHS Wales and the Welsh Government in support of UK and worldwide efforts.

In December 2015 a public consultation on a draft AMR Delivery Plan (Plan) invited views on the key priorities for action and respondents have been very supportive of the direction of travel for Wales. The final Plan\(^1\) and the Responses Report\(^2\) are now available on the Welsh Government website.

The published Delivery Plan sets out the Welsh Government's expectations in delivering high quality prudent health care - ensuring the right patient has the right care at the right time; delivering efficiency and effectiveness; tackling variation in access and reducing inequalities. A co-ordinated, collaborative approach in implementing the priority actions - such as robust infection prevention and control practices; better clinical and prescribing practice - is expected to have the greatest impact in slowing the spread of AMR.

Tackling AMR will be challenging for NHS Wales in terms of procedural and behavioural changes. In championing transformation, it is not sufficient for the Welsh Government to promulgate standards, requirements and guidance. We need also to ensure that changes are effected consistently and swiftly throughout all healthcare organisations in Wales. The Minister for Health and Social Services has therefore approved funding to help deliver the Welsh Government's Together for Health commitments to reducing harm, waste and variation through:

- a three year appointment of a consultant pharmacist to support health boards/trusts and help them achieve best prescribing practice within organisations and across Wales;
- a three year part time appointment of a clinical lead to provide support and expert advice about non-prescribing improvements needed to achieve consistency throughout organisations and across Wales.

Both posts will work with health boards, trusts, Public Health Wales (PHW) and the Welsh Government policy and professional leads. They must drive a demonstrably rapid and more consistent uptake of good practice across NHS Wales and help meet the Welsh Government's Together for Health commitments to reduce harm, waste and variation in clinical practice. We have asked PHW to take forward the recruitment of these posts. The intention is not to take ownership from NHS Wales but to provide dedicated resources to support delivery local and national delivery. Health boards/trusts are urged to take full advantage of these additional resources.

\(^1\) Delivery Plan

\(^2\) Responses Report
6. The Minister has also approved central funding for a public awareness raising campaign and continuation of the e-Bug educational resource.

7. The Plan is a major milestone for Wales in tackling AMR and it is therefore vital that everyone plays a full part in its delivery.