ACOM

Association of Clinical Oral Microbiologists

&

College of General Dentistry

Supported by

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES

Addysg a Gwella Iechyd Cymru (AaGIC)

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland

SAPG

ADH Association of Dental Hospitals

BDA British Dental Association

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ANTIMICROBIAL CHEMOTHERAPY

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

The Faculty of Dental Surgery

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

DENTAL SURGERY

Faculty of Dental Surgery

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Support World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW)- 18-24 November 2023

Understanding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the drivers for its development will help healthcare professionals work together to reduce its emergence and spread. It is well documented that the more we use antimicrobial agents, the more drug resistance will develop. Fourteen national dental organisations have come together to support the World AMR Awareness Week theme, "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together".

If no action is taken, AMR infections are predicted to lead to 10m deaths annually by 2050; a number higher than the total caused by COVID-19 during the pandemic period. Therefore, dental professionals have worked together to update the online dental antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) toolkit with resources for dental teams, students and patients as well as wider healthcare professionals.[1] The range of educational resources included a new website for students and educators providing links to various online training courses.[2]

Our profession already focuses on the prevention of oral diseases to reduce the incidence of severe infections that necessitate the use of antimicrobial agents. Adhering to the best practice recommendations aimed at preventing infections, in addition to stewarding the use of antimicrobial agents, is very important. Accordingly, "Delivering better oral health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention[3]" is included in the updated AMS toolkit[1]. It is also acknowledged that system-level changes are required to facilitate the provision of best practice. Furthermore, we need to look to the future and ensure appropriate disposal of antimicrobials to reduce environmental contamination. Guidance on the appropriate disposal of waste in healthcare settings including dentistry is available in HTM07-01 and SHTN3.[4]

We encourage you to make the most out of these resources to ensure you and your team are working together to help keep your patients safe by tackling the problem of AMR:

1. Dental Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit* is available via https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dental-antimicrobial-stewardship-toolkit
2. Keep Antimicrobial Working (KAW) education resource for students and educator are available at https://bsac-kaw.co.uk/
3. Delivering better oral health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention is available via https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-better-oral-health-an-evidence-based-toolkit-for-prevention

4. Safe and sustainable management of healthcare waste is available via https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/B2159iii-health-technical-memorandum-07-01.pdf and for Scotland, the Scottish Health Technical Note 3 (SHTN 3) in https://www.nss.nhs.scot/publications/waste-management-shtn-3/
5. Dental Antimicrobial Stewardship in Scotland is available via https://www.sapg.scot/guidance-qi-tools/dental-stewardship/. SAPG Dental statement recommending phenoxymethylpenicillin as first line when antibiotics are required for acute dento-alveolar infections available via https://www.sapg.scot/media/5473/statement-on-pen-v-in-dental-infections.pdf

This statement is developed and supported by the Association of Clinical Oral Microbiologists, College of General Dentistry, Association of Dental Hospitals, British Association of Oral Surgeons, British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry, British Dental Association, British and Irish Society of Oral Medicine, British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group and Health Education and Improvement Wales.

**Recent updates to the Dental Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit are in the process of being made online. If signposted to the former FGDP, users should instead visit* https://cgdent.uk/standards-guidance/

Ends.

Notes for editors

1. The Association of Clinical Oral Microbiologists (ACOM) exists to promote the clinical practice of diagnostic microbiology, infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship. Its members are clinically qualified and work in clinical practice and academia to promote the prevention and optimal management of infection in the oral and maxillo-facial region.
2. The College of General Dentistry (CGDent) is the first independent college for primary care dentistry in the UK. Serving the public interest in oral health, and engaging the whole dental team, it will build on the achievements of the FGDP(UK) in setting standards for general dental care and delivering outstanding postgraduate dental education and has a vision to achieve Royal College standing.
3. The Association of Dental Hospitals (ADH) is a membership organisation which represents the voices of dental hospitals across the UK and Ireland. Its membership consists of dental hospitals and academic clinical facilities which provide dental services and have a significant commitment to NHS-funded undergraduate or postgraduate dental students.
4. The British Dental Association (BDA) is the voice of dentists and dental students in the UK. It brings dentists together, supports its members through advice and education, and represents their interests. As the trade union and professional body, it represents all fields of dentistry including general practice, community dental services, the armed forces, hospitals, academia, public health and research.
5. SAPG-Dental is the dental sub-group of the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group, part of Healthcare Improvement Scotland. The dental sub-group comprises dental practitioners, academics, antimicrobial pharmacists and patient representatives. Its aim is to improve antimicrobial stewardship for dental infections in Scotland.
6. Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is the strategic workforce body for NHS Wales. As a Special Health Authority, it has a unique contribution to make in addressing strategic and specialist workforce issues, making Wales a great place to train

and work and maximising the contribution of all professions and occupations through its statutory functions.

7. The British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) is a global educator, joining the dots between scientific researchers, medical communities and the wider public, encouraging and enabling them to pass on their knowledge to a global audience. Founded in 1971, and with members in 135 countries around the world, its internationally renowned publications are among the foremost international journals in antimicrobial research, and its commitment to scientific excellence is reflected in its varied programme of events, training and free educational resources.
8. The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FDS) is a professional body committed to enabling dental surgeons to achieve and maintain excellence in practice and patient care. Founded in 1947, it has over 5,500 members and fellows and is one of the leading providers of dental education, supporting thousands of dentists worldwide to fulfil their potential.
9. The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh promotes excellence in global oral health through education, examination and engagement. The Faculty mission is simple, for people across the world to have access to high quality dental care wherever they live. Established in 1982, over 40 years ago, the Faculty of Dental Surgery is the oldest, largest and most international of all the surgical royal colleges in the UK with 8,000 Members and Fellows in over 100 countries throughout the world. The Faculty is led by a strong and decisive Dental Council.
10. The Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow is a worldwide community of health professionals working together to develop and improve patient care. We are proud to be the only Royal College in the UK that welcomes members from around the globe within every medical speciality. Established in 1967, the Faculty of Dental Surgery sets the highest possible standards for an increasingly demanding profession. We are committed to supporting dental professionals through every stage of their career while working to lower the cost of dental training.
11. The Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) was founded in 1963 with the core mission of advancing the science, art and practice of dentistry by the promotion of education, study and research.
12. The British and Irish Society for Oral Medicine (BISOM) is the UK and Ireland's recognised authority for clinical care, research, and education in oral medicine.
13. The British Association of Oral Surgeons (BAOS) represents all practitioners with a special interest in Oral Surgery, from high street practitioners through hospital specialists to academic oral surgeons. The Association's aims are to promote the development of specialist Oral Surgery practice and address issues relating to NHS and private practice, training, clinical governance and post-specialist training.
14. The British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) is the UK's professional association for the science, philosophy and practice of promoting oral health in society.
15. For ACOM enquiries, please email Melanie Wilson at WilsonMJ@cardiff.ac.uk
16. For CGDent enquiries, please email Simon Thornton-Wood, Chief Executive, at simon.thorntonwood@cgdent.uk
17. For ADH enquiries, please email Rosie Pearce at rosie.pearce@dentalhospitals.org.uk
18. For BDA enquiries, please email MediaPRandParliamentary@bda.org
19. For SAPG-Dental enquiries, please email andrew.smith@glasgow.ac.uk
20. For HEIW enquiries, please email HEIW.Dental@wales.nhs.uk
21. For BSAC enquiries, please email Tracey Guise at TGuise@bsac.org.uk
22. For FDS RCSEng enquiries, please email HJohnsto@rcseng.ac.uk
23. For FDS RCPSG enquiries, please email dental@rcpsg.ac.uk
24. For FDS RCSEd enquiries, please email C.Brodie@rcsed.ac.uk
25. For RCSI enquiries, please email fallen@rcsi.ie
26. For BISOM enquiries, please email secretary@bisom.org.uk
27. For BAOS enquiries, please email baos@rcsed.ac.uk

28. For BASCD enquiries, please email yvonne.dailey1@nhs.net