



## PIVMECILLINAM, NITROFURANTOIN AND FOSFOMYCIN

Reminder to prescribers that pivmecillinam, nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin should be used when appropriate in [cystitis/lower urinary tract](#) infections only. Secondary care have highlighted an increasing number of patients receiving these medications for pyelonephritis, fever and systemically unwell patients, which is inappropriate due to risk of bacteraemia and sepsis. *Deepa Tailor - Senior Med Op Pharmacist*

Patients with pyelonephritis usually have loin pain, kidney tenderness, nausea, vomiting and signs of systemic infection. Please follow the [Acute Pyelonephritis in Adults](#) guideline for treatment.



*Using patient leaflets interactively in consultations is the best way to support effective discussions and maintain patient satisfaction.*

[UTI patient information leaflets to discuss with patients.](#)

## A REMINDER WHY

### Antimicrobial stewardship matters:

**Ambition 3:**  
Minimise infection



**Ambition 9:**  
Engage the public on AMR



**Ambition 4:**  
Provide safe and effective care to patients



**Ambition 8:**  
Demonstrate appropriate use of antimicrobials



#### MEASURING SUCCESS

Target: to reduce the incidence of a specified set of drug-resistant infections in humans in the UK by 10% by 2025; and halve the number of healthcare associated Gram-negative blood stream infections



#### MEASURING SUCCESS

Target: to be able report on the percentage of prescriptions supported by use of a diagnostic test or decision support tool by 2024, with improvement targets set by 2025.



#### MEASURING SUCCESS

Target: to reduce UK antimicrobial use in humans by 15% by 2024, including:  
a 25% reduction in antibiotic use in the community from the 2013 baseline;  
a 10% reduction in use of 'reserve' and 'watch' antibiotics in hospitals from the 2017 baseline



[UK National Action Plan AMR](#)

### NEWS

- ◆ [COVID Treatment & Prevention FAQs](#)  
[New COVID-19 treatments](#) - key messages for primary care about nMABs and antivirals for COVID-19.  
[COVID MEDICINE DELIVERY UNIT](#) - patient eligibility criteria.
- ◆ [End of Life Antibiotic use](#) - good practice recommendations for use of antibiotics towards the end of life.

### NICE GUIDELINE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ [COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19](#) - covers the management of COVID-19 for children, young people and adults in all care settings.

## APC ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINE UPDATES

- [Insect Bite and Stings](#) — updated following the [NG182](#) recommendations. This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for insect and spider bites and stings in adults, young people and children, including those that occurred while travelling outside the UK. It aims to limit antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.

# 'SHORTER IS BETTER'

## When it comes to antibiotic course length!

When prescribing antibiotics do you think about antibiotic course length?

Do you keep them short?

Do you know what local guidelines recommend?

Antibiotic resistance is a global threat and one that is growing at alarming speed.

The link between antibiotic prescribing and resistance is clear. People are being prescribed unnecessarily long courses of antibiotics which may increase their risk of developing antibiotic resistant infections, a [study](#) has suggested.

In 2019, the government published their [5-year action plan and 20-year vision](#) which details how the UK will address antimicrobial resistance. Aims include reducing human antibiotic use by 15% and cutting the number of resistant infections by 10% before 2025.

NICE and PHE have jointly published antimicrobial prescribing [guidelines](#) for a range of common infection topics, which include recommendations on the choice, dosage and course length of antibiotics.

The guidance reminds prescribers to use the shortest effective course as course length is an important area for antimicrobial stewardship. Local APC [guidelines](#) have been amended to reflect the reduction in course length.

In primary care, an Antimicrobial Formulary for common conditions has been imported into all GP clinical systems to support clinicians with their prescribing. This is managed and imported by the CCG Medicine Optimisation Team and updated regularly as guidelines change.

When a drug is prescribed, several dose options and intervals are given depending on the indication. Examples of some of the dose options seen when prescribing are shown below:

### Nitrofurantoin 100mg MR

| Source  | Dose ▾   | Quantity   | Issue Duration |
|---|--|------------|----------------|
| Adult Antimicrobial formulary APC<br>Jan 2022 | Lower UTI (men) (1st line): Take<br>ONE capsule twice daily for 7 days   | 14 capsule | 7              |
| Adult Antimicrobial formulary APC<br>Jan 2022 | Lower UTI (women) (1st line): Take<br>ONE capsule twice daily for 3 days | 6 capsule  | 3              |

### Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets

| Source  | Dose ▾  | Quantity  | Issue Duration |
|---|---|-----------|----------------|
| Adult Antimicrobial formulary APC<br>Jan 2022 | Acute sinusitis (1st line): Take<br>TWO tablets four times a day for 5 days | 40 tablet | 5              |
| Adult Antimicrobial formulary APC<br>Jan 2022 | Sore throat (1st line): Take<br>FOUR tablets twice a day for 10 days        | 80 tablet | 10             |
| Adult Antimicrobial formulary APC<br>Jan 2022 | Splenectomised patients: Take<br>ONE tablet twice a day long term           | 56 tablet | 28             |

Whenever prescribing antibiotics on SystemOne or EMIS please use this formulary and then prescribe the appropriate course length for the indication.