



THINK VIRAL

UKHSA surveillance data indicates that levels of influenza, RSV and COVID are rising in the community.

Do not miss a viral outbreak in a residential or nursing home!

- If you are called to review a number of residents with respiratory symptoms, **could it be a viral illness?**
- Elderly patients may present with a secondary bacterial chest infection in addition to having flu, Covid or RSV.
- Ask the home to take a lateral flow test and to call the Infection Prevention & Control Team who can support with the outbreak in a care home.
- If the LFT is negative a viral throat and nose swab can be taken to rule out flu and other respiratory viruses.
- If positive for Flu, NEMS will be contacted to provide anti-viral treatment and prophylaxis to reduce disease severity and unplanned admissions.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Infection Control & Prevention Teams if any further information is needed.

(0115) 8834902 City / (01623) 673081 County

MHRA latest: Fluoroquinolones

January 2024

The latest MHRA alert states that fluoroquinolone antibiotics (ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin, levofloxacin, delafloxacin, moxifloxacin) **MUST ONLY** be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate.

Situations where other antibiotics are considered inappropriate and where a fluoroquinolone may be indicated include:

- there is resistance to other first-line antibiotics recommended for the infection.
- other first-line antibiotics are contraindicated in an individual patient.
- other first-line antibiotics have caused side effects in the patient requiring treatment to be stopped.
- treatment with other first-line antibiotics has failed.

Patients must be advised to stop treatment at the first signs of serious reaction.

MHRA patient information leaflet ([regular print](#) or [large print](#)).

A summary of all fluoroquinolone alerts has been added to the APC [website](#) and linked to the relevant guidelines.

Co-trimoxazole Medicine Supply Notification

An updated Tier 3, high impact notification was issued 12/02/2024:

- Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free is out of stock until **early July 2024**.
- Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension is out of stock until **mid-March 2024**.
- Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg tablets and 160mg/800mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.

Where co-trimoxazole is required, clinicians/prescribers should:

- consider prescribing co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg tablets, either half a tablet or full tablet. Tablets may be crushed and mixed in a small amount of water/apple puree/soft food if a patient is unable to swallow tablets. See [SPS](#);
- reserve remaining oral suspension for patients on part doses not deliverable by tablet, or on enteral feeding tubes. Please be aware of different excipients and the suitability of these for patients.

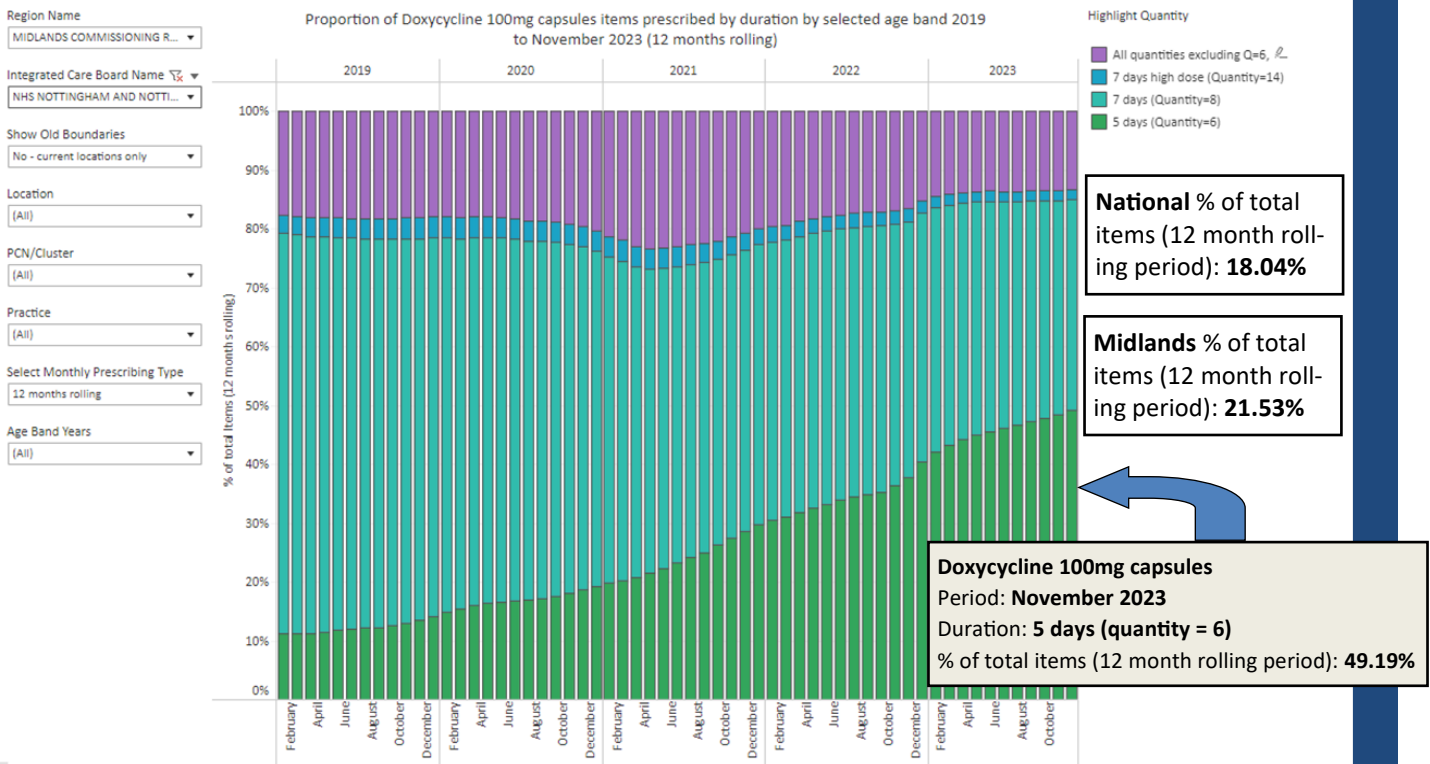
Shorter is Better—Doxycycline

The SystmOne antimicrobial formulary was rolled out in September 2020 and there has been a month on month local improvement in prescribing a 5 day course of doxycycline. Although the formulary is not yet available on 13 EMIS practices, OptimiseRx messages follow both local and national guidance, supporting the message that **Shorter is Better** (in most cases).

Please continue to use and promote this tool within your practices and with colleagues to support appropriate antibiotic course length prescribing.

The graph below shows a significantly better performance locally compared to regional and national figures.

Optimising antimicrobial duration dashboard - Doxycycline 100mg capsules



Pharmacy First

Pharmacy First is a national agreed local advanced service which includes 7 new clinical pathways and also incorporates the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS). The 7 clinical pathways were compiled alongside the National AMR Board, to ensure the scheme does not promote inappropriate supply.

Clinical Pathway	Age range
Uncomplicated UTI	Women 16-64 years
Shingles	18 years and over
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected Insect Bites	1 year and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Sore Throat	5 years and over
Acute Otitis Media	1 to 17 years

Surveillance

NHSE will closely monitor the Pharmacy First service post-launch, particularly in relation to antimicrobial supply to guard against the risk of increasing antimicrobial resistance.

National Institute for Health and Care Research will commission an evaluation of Pharmacy First services considering implications for antimicrobial resistance.

All pharmacists have undergone training and will follow nationally agreed [PGDs](#) based on NICE guidelines.

The service is a clinical pathway stepped approach:

1. Advice and reassurance
2. Symptom relief
3. Alternatives to antibiotics
4. Antibiotics.

[Community Pharmacy—NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB](#)