



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) (18th- 24th November 2022)

and

15th European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) (18th November 2022)

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated from 18th to 24th November every year.

The 2022 theme, **Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together**, aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public and health care workers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Key messages:

1) When should I take antibiotics?

Antibiotics are effective only against bacterial infections. The correct diagnosis and the decision about whether antibiotics are necessary can only be made by a medical doctor.

Remember: Antibiotics won't work in the case of cold or flu

2) How should I take antibiotics?

When the doctor has confirmed that antibiotics are necessary, it is very important to take the antibiotics in a responsible manner.

Remember: Take antibiotics responsibly

Keep antimicrobial medicines working through correct use:

- Take them only when advised by your doctor, pharmacist or nurse
- Follow directions on treatment dosage and duration, even if you feel better
- Don't share or use leftover antibiotics
- Always return any unused antibiotics to the pharmacy

3) Why should I take antibiotics responsibly?

Wrong or incorrect use of antibiotics may cause the bacteria to become resistant against future treatments. This is a health hazard not just for the person having taken the antibiotics inappropriately but also for anyone else who might catch the resistant bacteria afterwards.

Remember: Keeping antibiotics effective is everybody's responsibility

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats facing us today. Following this simple advice will help Keep Antibiotics Working.

Only with your help, we all will be able to rise to the national and global challenge of fighting antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you for your support.

North West London Medicines Management Team



North West London