ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN

Keep Antibiotics Working

EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY

A European Health Initiative

HANDLE WITH CARE!

Secondary Care Prescriber's Checklist

Antibiotics

–Overuse and incorrect use drives resistance

START SMART:

- ❑ do not start antimicrobial therapy unless there is clear evidence of infection
- ❑ take a thorough drug allergy history
- ❑ initiate prompt effective antibiotic treatment within one hour of diagnosis (or as soon as possible) in patients with severe sepsis or life-threatening infections. Avoid inappropriate use of broad-spectrum antibiotics
- ❑ comply with local antimicrobial prescribing guidance
- ❑ document clinical indication (and disease severity if appropriate), drug name, dose and route on drug chart and in clinical notes
- ❑ include review/stop date or duration
- ❑ obtain cultures prior to commencing therapy where possible (but do not delay therapy)
- ❑ prescribe single dose antibiotics for surgical prophylaxis where antibiotics have been shown to be effective
- ❑ document the exact indication on the drug chart (rather than stating long term prophylaxis) for clinical prophylaxis

THEN FOCUS:

At 48 – 72 hours; **review the patient and make a clinical decision** "the **Antimicrobial Prescribing Decision"** on the need for on-going antibiotic therapy.

Does patient's condition and/or culture result(s) necessitate:

- ❑ Stop of antibiotic therapy (if no evidence of infection)
- ❑ Switch from intravenous to oral therapy
- ❑ Change: de-escalation/substitution/addition of agents
- ❑ Continuation of current therapy
- ❑ Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT)

Document Decision & Next Review Date or Stop Date in clinical notes and drug chart

Reference: Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for Secondary Care: *Start Smart – then Focus*
Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/antimicrobial-stewardship-start-smart-then-focus
SSTF was developed by Public Health England and the Department of Health expert advisory committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI)