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**Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance**

**Patient and Public Engagement Activity Pack**

**Antimicrobial Resistance: Antibiotic Amnesty**

**Antimicrobial Resistance: Antibiotic Amnesty**

This pack is designed as a free guide, with printable resources, to allow you to run your own “Antibiotic Amnesty” engagement activity.

The activity can be used to educate participants about antibiotic resistance and the consequences that might arise due to an increase in resistant bacteria, by asking them to surrender unwanted antibiotics.

**Crediting the HPRU in HCAI and AMR at Imperial College.**

We would be delighted to hear from you if you choose to use our resources. Please do contact us at [head.ops@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:head.ops@imperial.ac.uk) and tweet pictures of the activity and tag us: @HPRUamr.

We would also be very keen to obtain any data on the results of your Amnesty (audit sheet included in resources) at the same email address, for inclusion in a future academic publication or poster. Subject to you providing permission all organisations providing data would be acknowledged.

## Activity Objectives

The objective of the activity is raise awareness of antibiotic resistance by asking people to surrender unwanted antibiotics. It also raises awareness of medicines waste which cost the NHS over £300M every year. The activity is ideally suited as an organisation-wide activity for World Antibiotic Awareness Week, or as an addition to a Science Fair, Science Week event, or Festival, or other public engagement event.

## Background Information

Antibiotics are used to treat infections caused by bacteria. They also underpin much of modern medicine from routine surgery to cancer treatment.

If used too often or incorrectly then bacteria can develop (evolve) ways to avoid being killed by antibiotics. This is called resistance. Drug Resistant bacteria are harder to kill than non-resistant bacteria. If bacteria become resistant to several different types of antibiotics, this is called multi-drug resistance and can eventually become impossible to treat. Drug resistant infections are a recognised global threat to health.

Unused prescription of all types of medicines cost the NHS in the UK an estimated £300M every year. According to the NHS’s “Medicines Waste Campaign This could pay for 11,778 more community nurses, or 80906 more hip replacements or 19,799 more drugs treatment courses for breast cancer.

An Antibiotic Amnesty has been held at Imperial College and its associated NHS Trust annually since 2016 when initiative was “highly commended” at the Antibiotic Guardian Awards in the innovation category in 2016 and was adopted by the Centre of Pharmacy Postgraduate Education, in conjunction with PHE, and run through a number of pharmacies nationally in 2017. In 2019 New Zealand ran an Antibiotic Amnesty nationally based on our model.

Activity Preparation

You will need:

* Arrangements for safe storage of medication prior to disposal
* An arranged safe route for disposal of medicines either via your local NHS Trust or via your Pharmacy. Any pharmacy can dispose of your unwanted medication safely and for free.
* Volunteers to man the amnesty stand and instructions for them (see resources) or an alternative safe and secure unmanned place where medicines can be disposed of.
* Material or methods for advertising the Amnesty (see resources)

Optional

* Audit sheet if you wish to record and/or share deta about what is surrendered.

## Activity Description

An Antibiotic Amnesty is advertised as taking place across an organisation, or at an event on a specific day or across a specific time period in a particular location.

Volunteers man a stand to take receipt of medication, or a safe and secure drop-off point for unwanted medicines is provided.

Additional information about resistance, medication waste or other related issues, may be provided by volunteers or left at the drop-off point.

Medication is safely disposed of, with optional data collection on the volume and type of medication surrendered.

## Activity Set-up

* The duration, date(s) and location of the amnesty should be agreed.
* Volunteers or a safe and secure drop-off point should be organised
* Volunteers should be fully briefed (see resources – Sample briefing notes)
* Appropriate methods of advertising the Amnesty should be agreed (see resources, Top Tips)
* Medicines should be safely disposed of, this may be after an optional audit/data collection of what has been surrendered.

**RESOURCES:**

* **Top tips**
* **Audit Sheet**
* **Sample briefing notes**

**Top tips on running an antibiotic amnesty in your organisation**

* Before you start ensure you have made necessary arrangements for safe storage of medication prior to disposal and that safe routes for disposal are in place
* Advertise the Amnesty. In addition to posters consider the use of websites, social media, mailing lists, local publications, flyers and personal contacts too.
* An incentive can help engagement- e.g, entry into a prize draw for those surrendering unwanted antibiotics. A supplementary activity which is available at the same time can also help create interest. At Imperial we ran a number of fun patient and public engagement games in tandem encourage people to participate and asked people to sign up to the Antibiotic Guardian campaign [www.antibioticguardian.com](http://www.antibioticguardian.com)
* Staff or volunteers who will be resourcing the amnesty need to be briefed in advance about the Amnesty, why it is being held and what they physically need to do in terms of medicines storage, disposal, and data recording. In particular for PATIENT SAFETY those taking receipt of antibiotics should ensure that they confirm with the owner, that the medication is NOT part of an emergency/stand-by/rescue pack or long term prophylaxis. In addition to holding a briefing, we suggest printing physical notes and making them available throughout the Amnesty
* During the Amnesty, try and build interest by using twitter, Instagram and other tools throughout. If you remember to copy us in @hpru-amr or use hashtags #hpru-amr, and #antibioticamnesty , we will retweet you. You may also want to use #antibioticresistance and #WAAW2019 or #medicationwaste
* The purpose of the Amnesty is not ONLY to obtain unwanted /unused antibiotics, but also more generally to raise awareness about drug resistance or medication waste. To this end a range of printed material is helpful. Some tailored leaflets are available via our website- <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/hpru-amr/patient-and-public-information/fact-sheets-and-downloads/> WHO has a number of alternative posters and messages <http://www.who.int/who-campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week> as do public health England <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working/resources> and the Medication waste campaign <http://www.medicinewaste.com/>
* You can register your Amnesty, as a World Antibiotic Awareness Week activity, with the WHO <http://apps.who.int/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/activities/en/submit-event> and Antibiotic Guardian <https://antibioticguardian.com/organisations/>

**Project: Antibiotic Amnesty, in association with the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance at Imperial College London.**

By returning this sheet, please confirm you give permission for this data to be stored and used by Imperial College London for the purposes of research? I DO/DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION

Do you wish for your organisation to acknowledged in any outputs resulting from this project? YES/NO

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of organisation participating |  |
| Number of branches/sites participating |  |
| Location (County/State/Region/District) |  |
| Country |  |
| Number of days Amnesty held for. |  |
| Contact details in case of any queries |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Antibiotic Returned | Capsule / Tablet Strength | Quantity returned |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**SAMPLE BRIEFING NOTES FOR THOSE RESOURCING THE AMNESTY**

Between <dates> we will be holding Antibiotic Amnesty to mark World Antibiotic Awareness Week at <locations/branches>, in collaboration with the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Healthcare Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance based at Imperial College London.

Posters will be displayed advertising the Amnesty and you are encouraged to ask all patients/customers/clients with whom you have contact during the week, to check their medicine cabinets at home and return any out of date or unwanted antibiotics to us for safe disposal

The purpose of the Amnesty to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and there will also be <a number of printed resources to hand out><details of other activities on offer>

**Those taking receipt of unwanted antibiotics must:**

1. **Confirm with whomever is surrendering the antibiotics, that the medication is NOT part of an emergency/stand-by/rescue pack or long term prophylaxis- this is essential for patient safety**
2. **Record the details of the antibiotic surrendered, quantity and strength on the record sheet**
3. **Place the antibiotics in <location> <details of safe storage and safe disposal arrangements>**

During the Amnesty we would like those working to Tweet about our activities where possible using the hashtags #antibioticamnesty, #WAAW2019, #antimicrobialresistance and copy in @hpru-amr

If you have any questions about this initiative or require anymore materials please contact <CONTACT DETAILS> who is co-ordinating this event.

**LINK TO CAMPAIGN MATERIALS**

WHO World Antibiotic Awareness Week:[**https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week**](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week)

Medication waste:[**http://www.medicinewaste.com/**](http://www.medicinewaste.com/)