

## HARMONISATION OF OUR EXISTING GUIDELINES INTO A **NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINE**

Nau mai, haere mai!

Welcome to our first newsletter!

We are excited to be leading development of national antimicrobial guidelines (we will find a more suitable name for the 'NAG' over coming months!). In partnership with Te Niwha, we will deliver a suite of projects aimed at promoting effective, equitable, safe and sustainable antimicrobial use throughout Aotearoa. Starter information about our research team and projects is [here](#).

This newsletter offers a little more detail about the national antimicrobial guideline development.

### Background

Aotearoa currently has considerable duplication in antimicrobial guideline development with multiple hospital and community guidelines at district, regional and national levels. This duplication has led to variation between guidelines in treatment recommendations, accessibility of the guidelines, and approaches to updating guideline content. Recent reports have recommended harmonising existing guidelines into one national guideline.<sup>1,2</sup> This is the approach we will use here. By working collaboratively with existing guideline developers, clinicians and community from across the motu we hope to land a national guideline that we can all be proud of.

### Process

Soon, we will share the principles for guideline development and some detail about timelines. However, please note that we are not starting this process from scratch. We seek to merge the empiric antimicrobial guidelines that sit in key existing guidelines into one 'single source of truth' for both adults (~100 indications) and children (~50 indications). There will be opportunities to contribute and provide feedback. Further details to come.

### Outputs

We will develop both mobile and desktop versions of the guidelines, and also set them up to enable integration with other electronic resources such as HealthPathways and prescribing systems.

### Engagement

We are connecting with people involved with or interested in antimicrobial guideline development across Aotearoa, ranging from clinicians working in rural or remote settings to antimicrobial stewardship groups to organisations central to the success and sustainability of the guidelines, e.g. Manatū Hauora, Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora. We are only a few weeks in and have received ~200 emails, attended 14 meetings and had our first conference presentation.

We are finding our feet with communication – next steps are to establish a social media profile and a website for progress updates. Thank you to those who have reached out already. If you are keen to contribute to guideline development or to receive progress updates, please get in touch:



[antimicrobials@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:antimicrobials@cdhb.health.nz)

### Timeline

The timeline is tight! We will launch the guidelines in 12 months' time during World AMR Awareness Week 18 – 24 November 2024.

### Our vision:

To develop a trusted and highly accessible national guideline that facilitates effective, equitable and sustainable antimicrobial use for all in Aotearoa.

### References

1. Synergia. Development of national antibiotic guidance in New Zealand. A scoping report for ACC. 2020. Unpublished.
2. Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. Kotahitanga – Uniting Aotearoa against infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance. 2021. Available [here](#).