

## UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-SECTOR

# NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINES

Kia ora koutou

This is an update on progress with the national antimicrobial guidelines. For those not aware of this mahi, you can find our first newsletter [here](#) and a list of most of our team members [here](#).

## Guideline development

### *Harmonisation of existing guidelines (Year 1 goal)*

We have made progress with drafting adult guidelines, and we'll soon be sharing the first set with antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) teams. Our aim in this first year is to work collaboratively to merge existing guidelines into a single national antimicrobial prescribing standard. For the adult guidelines this involves working closely with the 12 AMS teams behind the current hospital antimicrobial guidelines. The approach for paediatrics will be similar but there are fewer guidelines to incorporate.

We hope that the current guideline developers will be open to compromise to create a guideline that we can all support in practice. This is crucial for tackling inequities and ensuring sustainable antimicrobial use for everyone in Aotearoa.

National antimicrobial guidelines, like the NZ Sexual Health Society's [STI guidelines](#), will likely be adopted as they are, with appreciation for the mahi already done.

### *Multiple opportunities for guideline review*

Once the first draft of the national antimicrobial guideline is established (Jan – Jul 2024), we will have two further layers of formal review (plus many kōrero and hui alongside):

- 1 a clinical evaluation network (from Oct 2024), and
- 2 an open consultation (from Dec 2024).

The clinical evaluation network is made up of enthusiastic clinicians who have told us they want to contribute (thank you!) and, we hope, nominees from key organisations (e.g. Royal NZ College of GPs, Pharmaceutical Society of NZ, NZ Nurses Organisation). If you would like to join this network as

an individual clinician or if you want to make sure your organisation is able to contribute, please email us using the subject title "Clinical evaluation network":



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

## Launch

It seems that we were a wee bit ambitious with setting a target for launching the guidelines during World AMR Awareness Week November 2024. Some unexpected setbacks have meant that launch is now planned for early 2025.

## In other news....

### *Welcome to new team members*

We warmly welcome four new team members to help with project management, design and engagement:

#### **Elina Ashimbayeva & Livvy Carey**

Ara Manawa (Design and Innovation Studio)  
Te Toka Tumai Auckland, Health NZ Te Whatu Ora

#### **Chelsey Gardiner & Elaine Umali**

National Institute for Health Information  
University of Auckland

### *Appointment of digital partner*

We are pleased to share that we have appointed [Rush Digital](#) to establish the digital guideline platform, and to enable it to connect with other key national health resources.

## Our vision:

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