

NICHE

YOUR 5 MOMENTS OF PRESCRIBING TO PREVENT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

1 NEED FOR AN ANTIBIOTIC

WHEN : BEFORE YOU PRESCRIBE AND AT DAILY REVIEW – CONSIDER NOT PRESCRIBING IF PATIENT IS WELL OR SELF-LIMITING INFECTION (E.G. UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT) OR STOPPING IF PATIENT IS BETTER OR YOU MAKE A NON-INFECTION DIAGNOSIS

WHY : PATIENTS EXPOSED TO ANTIBIOTICS ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP RESISTANT BACTERIA MAKING SUBSEQUENT INFECTIONS MORE DIFFICULT TO TREAT. RESISTANT BACTERIA CAN ALSO SPREAD TO OTHER PATIENTS OR HEALTHCARE STAFF

WHEN : BEFORE YOU PRESCRIBE FOR ALL HOSPITALISED PATIENTS (E.G. BLOOD/URINE/SPUTUM/CSF CULTURES) AND CONSIDER FURTHER TESTS BEFORE YOU CHANGE AN ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTION

2 INVESTIGATIONS CULTURES BEFORE PRESCRIBING

WHY : CULTURES ARE NECESSARY TO CONFIRM ANTIBIOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY AND GUIDE YOU IN CHOOSING THE MOST APPROPRIATE THERAPY. THEY ALSO HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

3 CHOICE SPECTRUM OF ANTIBIOTIC

WHEN : BEFORE YOU PRESCRIBE AND AT DAILY REVIEW – CONSULT LOCAL OR NATIONAL GUIDELINES – IF A POSITIVE MICROBIOLOGY TEST IS AVAILABLE, USE THE NARROWEST-SPECTRUM EFFECTIVE ANTIBIOTIC

WHY : USE OF BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS (E.G. CEPHALOSPORINS, CO-AMOXICLAV, PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM, FLUOROQUINOLONES AND CARBAPENEMS) LEADS TO THE EMERGENCE OF HIGHLY RESISTANT BACTERIA

4 HOW LONG IS YOUR PRESCRIPTION FOR?

WHY : THE LONGER YOU EXPOSE BACTERIA TO AN ANTIBIOTIC, PARTICULARLY AT LOW CONCENTRATIONS, THE MORE LIKELY BACTERIA ARE TO BECOME RESISTANT – DOSING CORRECTLY IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE CONCENTRATIONS

WHEN : AT YOUR DAILY REVIEW – IS YOUR PATIENT CLINICALLY IMPROVING? ARE ANY MICROBIOLOGY TESTS POSITIVE? MODIFY ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY ACCORDING TO LOCAL OR NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF NICHE

WHY : IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO CHANGE THE ANTIBIOTIC REGIMEN FOR PATIENTS WITH A POSITIVE TEST. PATIENTS NOT IMPROVING MAY REQUIRE MORE TESTS AND/OR A DIFFERENT ANTIBIOTIC. CAN YOU STOP IF PATIENT IS BETTER?

5 EVALUATE YOUR PATIENT AND PRESCRIPTION

AT ANY REVIEW CONSIDER ALL OF THE NICHE COMPONENTS TO LIMIT THE RISK OF YOUR PRESCRIPTION CONTRIBUTING TO RESISTANCE



The British Society
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EUROPEAN
ANTIBIOTIC
AWARENESS DAY

