

Report on Antimicrobial Prescribing in the Three North Yorkshire CCGs - November 2019

Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antibiotic over-prescribing is a key issue for our CCGs and is also a growing global problem with huge potential social and economic impact. The Department of Health and Social Care published a five year action plan (1) in January 2019, which built on the previous UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 – 2018 (2). Both have the ultimate aim of slowing the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The 2019 UK action plan focuses on three key ways of tackling AMR:

- reducing need for, and unintentional exposure to, antimicrobials;
- optimising use of antimicrobials; and
- investing in innovation, supply and access

The Medicines Management Team (MMT) have undertaken considerable work in this area over many years, focusing on the first two of the above action points. Our workstream on optimising the use of antimicrobials includes the development and maintenance of local primary care antibiotic prescribing guidelines. This document is in use across the whole of North Yorkshire and York. The guidance brings together the expertise of consultant microbiologists from our three acute hospital Trusts, GPs, the PHE team, plus primary and secondary care pharmacists with an interest in antimicrobial prescribing. The current version is currently going through a full review process, following the publication of several new antibiotic prescribing pathways by NICE and PHE.

The MMT works with our GPs, local hospital trusts and infection control teams to build on this work and to ensure antimicrobial stewardship remains high on the local prescribing agenda.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week and European Antibiotic Awareness Day occur in November each year and are an important part of the national programme to raise awareness amongst prescribers and the public of the scale and importance of this problem. The MMT will be issuing a feedback report to each practice in all the five CCGs we work with, showing how their antibiotic prescribing compare with their local peers. Signposting to training and education resources will be included. The MMT are also working with the communications team on promotions to the public via their usual channels during World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

North Yorkshire Position

The most recent antibiotic prescribing data available (August 2019) is summarised in the map and the trend graphs below. The heat map shows HRW and HaRD in green, as these CCGs are currently well below the NHS England target figure (and also below the English average figure) for total

antibiotic prescribing. ScR is shown in turquoise, which means that we would have met the old target but do not meet the newer stretch target set by NHSE. Some CCGs to the north are coloured purple which indicates they do not meet either the old or the new NHSE targets for total antibiotic prescribing.

Although ScR does not meet the target for total antibiotic prescribing at present, the trend graph (figure 2) demonstrates that prescribing in this area is on a steady downward trend. Good work in one practice in this CCG has been discussed at a recent Council of Clinical Representatives meeting to share learning and encourage other GP colleagues to tackle this issue.

The second trend graph (figure 3) shows our performance against the other antibiotic prescribing target set by NHSE. This target is for the percentage of broad spectrum antibiotics prescribed to be 10% (or under) of the total figure. ScR and HaRD have been meeting this target for some time and are well under the England average figure. HRW has recently met this target for the first time since the percentage target was reduced in 2017.

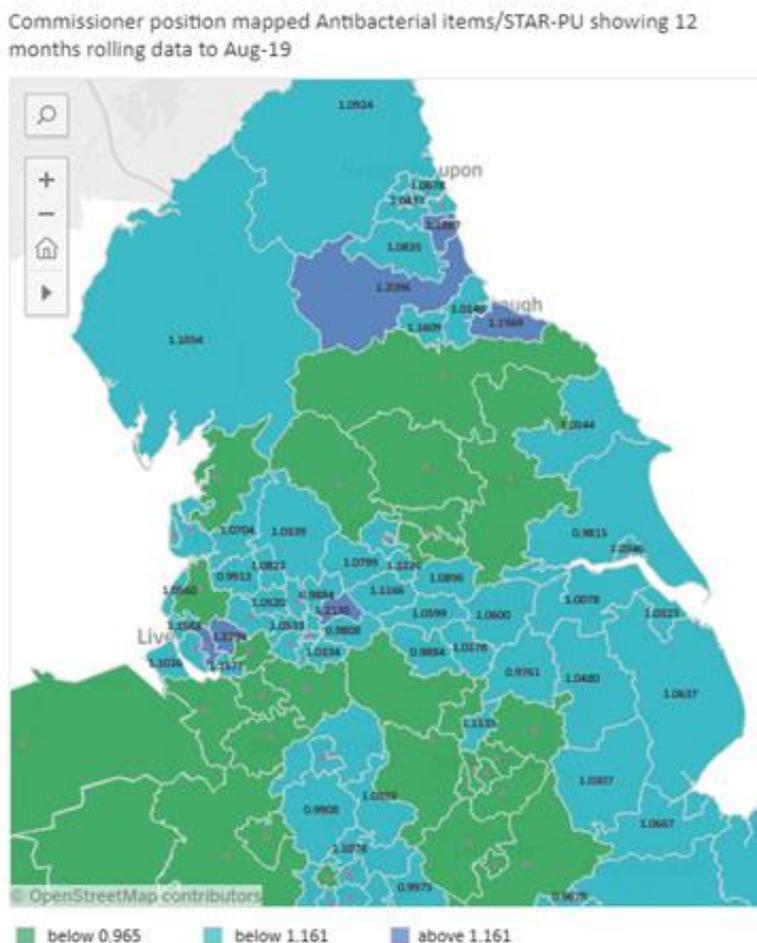


Figure 1 – Heat map of total antibiotic prescribing as compared to the NHSE targets

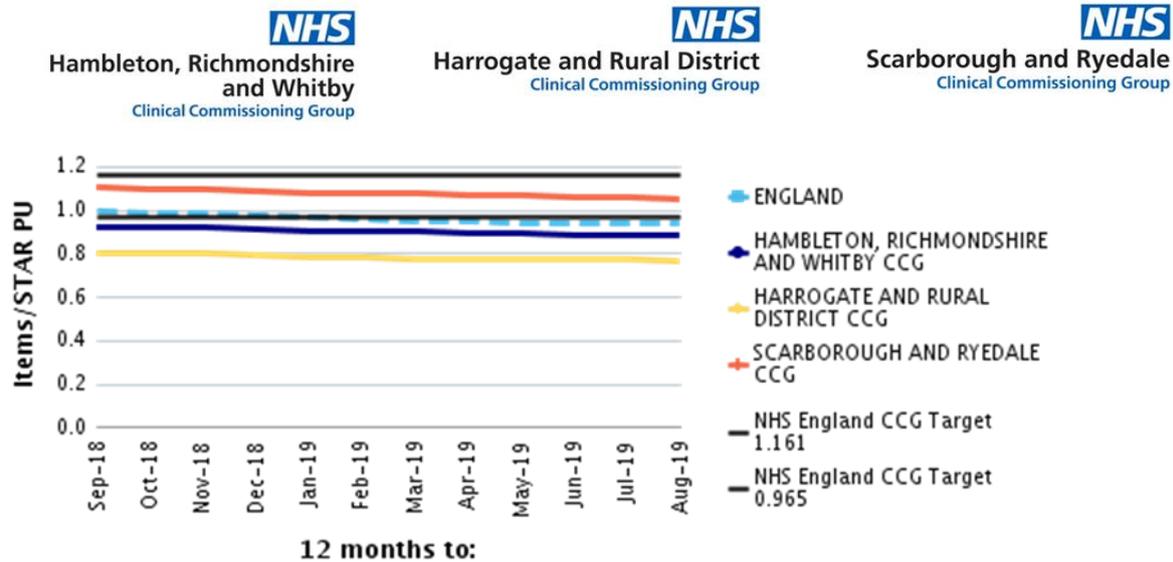


Figure 2 – Trend graph for total antibiotic prescribing as expressed by items per STAR-PU (weighted patient). The 2 black lines represent the old & the new NHSE targets

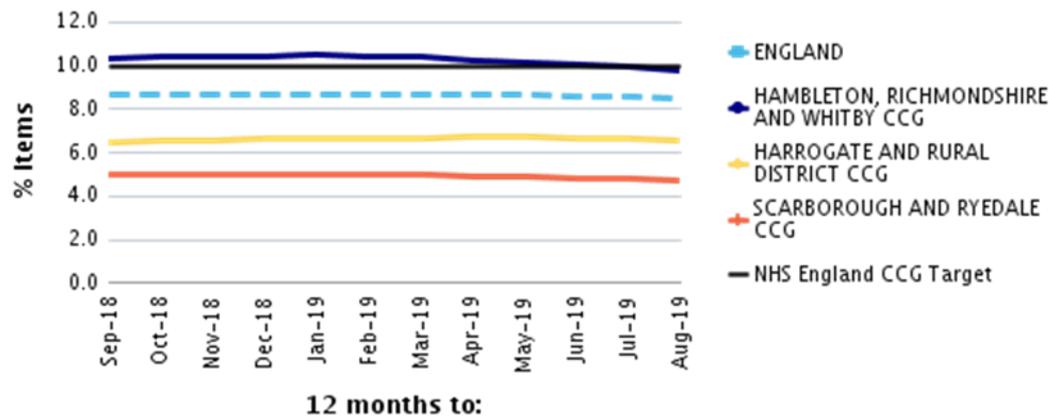


Figure 3 – Trend graph for percentage of all antibiotic prescriptions which are broad spectrum antibiotics. The NHSE target is 10% or below.

Antimicrobial Awareness Initiatives in HRW during the last 12 months

- Antibiotic reviews in targeted practices led by CCG pharmacist and/or South Tees consultant
- Dr Parker led a discussion of broad spectrum antibiotic prescribing at the Chapter 3 event in September
- ‘Monthly topic’ issued to practices to review antibiotic prescribing in November 2018 and May 2019. This provides feedback to prescribers as per NICE guidance NG15 (3)
- One practice has purchased a point of care testing (PoCT) CRP testing machine with the aim of reducing the number of antibiotic scripts issued
- MMT work with the South Tees microbiology department has resulted in a change to the way primary care urine samples are reported from November 2019 onwards. Less broad spectrum antibiotic sensitivity results will be released by the laboratory.

Initiatives in HaRD during the last 12 months

- In partnership with the West Yorkshire Research & Development Team the LAMP (Lowering AntiMicrobial Prescribing) project started in April 2019 and is ongoing for the whole year. This provides bi-monthly feedback to all practices on their antibiotic prescribing rates, as compared to their peers and to national rates. Each report gives advice on improving and reducing antimicrobial prescribing, utilising evidence based techniques to drive behaviour change and influence prescribing patterns.

Initiatives in ScR during the last 12 months

- Presentations at each Council of Clinical Reps meetings, including sharing of antimicrobial prescribing local initiatives at the most recent meeting
- Planned presentation of recent audit by one practice that has led to significant reduction in prescribed antibiotic items at December CoCR meeting
- Encouragement of prescribers to use RCGP TARGET (4) materials and educational packages
- Recent introduction of point of care testing (PoCT) at unscheduled care centre (based at hospital) – work with colleagues to understand possible impact
- Consideration of PoCT deployment at PCN level
- Inclusion of antibiotic prescribing data for discussion at all practice assurance visits

References

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/784894/UK_AMR_5_year_national_action_plan.pdf
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-antimicrobial-resistance-strategy-2013-to-2018>
3. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng15>
4. <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/TARGETantibiotics>