

To:  
All GPs  
OOHs providers  
Community Pharmacies

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[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

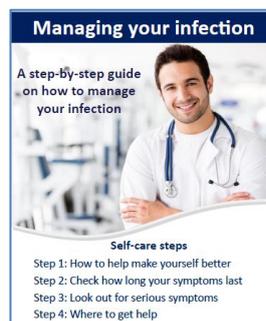
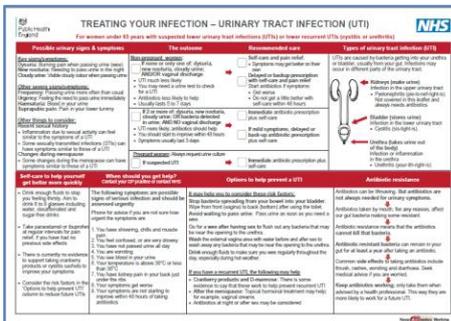
19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Colleague

**FOR ACTION: DISCONTINUE USE OF TARGET AND HSCB ANTIMICROBIAL PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLETS**

As you will be aware, printed copies of the antibiotic related patient resources detailed below have been supplied to GP practices, OOHs centres and Community pharmacies on a number of occasions to promote and support the HSCB in tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

- Treating your infection - Respiratory tract Infection (tear-off pads)
- Treating your infection - Urinary Tract infection (tear-off pads)
- Managing your infection (booklet)
- Do I need an Antibiotic/ Does my child need an Antibiotic (leaflets)



Regrettably the information contained in these resources is not fully compatible with advice pertinent to the current COVID 19 pandemic (e.g. advice on self-care of fever without reference to need for testing). Therefore we are advising you to discontinue using these resources, and to remove and dispose of any posters and leaflets that are on display on your premises. Sample pictures of some of the resources are shown above.

TARGET resources were endorsed by the PHA and HSCB for use in Northern Ireland in 2018. These are currently being revised and when available this information will be communicated to you.

As an alternative the [Self-Care Forum Factsheets](#) are available online for common ailments. They provide patients with information around:

- Useful facts
- What patients can expect to happen (the natural history)
- What people can do to help themselves – now and in the future
- When to seek medical help (the ‘red flags’)
- Where to find out more

Some Clinical Systems may allow texting links to the factsheets to patients or you may consider adding the link to your practice or pharmacy website: <http://www.selfcareforum.org/fact-sheets/>.

Please contact your local pharmacy advisor should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



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**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines**  
**Management**



**Dr Margaret O'Brien**  
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