AMR ACTION UK

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): How Can Your Organisation Support Your Community?

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites are no longer affected by the medicines used to treat the infections that they cause, such as antibiotics.

These micro-organisms become ‘resistant’ to the medicines, leading to longer illnesses, increased complications and fewer treatment options. AMR contributes to around **35,000** deaths each year in the UK.

Who May Be at Higher Risk?

People at greater risk include:

- People with immature or weakened immune systems, such as newborn babies, people living with chronic illnesses and older adults.
- Those with frequent antibiotic use.
- People who have frequent hospital stays.
- People with limited access to healthcare services.

www.amr-action-uk.org

AMR Action UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1157884) and Scotland (SC055094)

Signs to Look Out For That Might be AMR:

- An infection that does not improve within three days of starting antibiotics.
- Needing stronger or longer courses of treatment.
- Symptoms that persist despite medicines.
- Repeated infections.
- Wounds that are slow to heal.

How Can You Help?

- **Encourage Correct Use of Medicines.**

Advise people to take their antibiotics, antifungals or antiparasitic medicines exactly as prescribed and complete the full course even if symptoms improve (unless told otherwise by a healthcare professional).

- **Implementing good infection management and control.**

Ensuring patients and the people caring for them implement good handwashing measures and practices to reduce the risk of spreading infections to other people.

- **Encourage people to seek medical advice.**

If symptoms worsen or do not improve whilst taking medication, or if people experience repeated instances of infection, for example, Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), known as ‘water infections’, or respiratory infections, encourage them to seek medical advice. They may need further tests.

Accessing Support and Information

Encourage people to speak to their GP for medical advice.
For other information, opportunities to connect with others affected by AMR and to use lived experience for positive change, contact **AMR ACTION UK.**

Call: 02046 385 361 **Email**: info@amr-action-uk.org
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