

# Guidelines for the good use of antibiotics in the community: a multi-disciplinary experience of the Local Health Authority (AUSL) of Reggio Emilia



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Dr.ssa Sofia Filippini:  
sofia.filippini@ausl.re.it

## Authors

Sergio Mezzadri (3), Sofia Filippini (1), Annamaria Valcavi (1), Alessandra Ferretti (1), Simone Filippi (2), Francesco Marchi (2), Lucrezia Manghi (2), Marco Massari (3), Alessandra Fonto (4), Federica Violi (4), Alberto Gandolfi (5), Lina Bianconi (5), Elena Casini (5), Valentina Pinna (5), Marcellino Bardaro (6), Giuseppe Rusello (6), Paola Nardini (6), Laura Cavazzuti (7), Davide Maria Lucchesi (8), Lidia Fares (1), Federica Gradellini (1), Cinzia Gentile (9)

1-Pharmaceutical Department, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia, 2-Infectious Diseases, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia  
3-Primary Care Department, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia, 4-General practitioner, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia  
5-Microbiology, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia, 6-Medical Direction, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia, 7-First aid and Emergency Medicine, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia, 8-Health Management, Local Health Authority of Reggio Emilia

## Why was done

The overuse and misuse of antibiotics in Italy has led to the development of bacterial resistance. To minimise the emergence of antimicrobial resistance it is essential to improve best practices for antibiotic use in a “one health” approach.

### What was done

Guidelines for antibiotic prescriptions in the community to support general practitioners in the **diagnosis, management and treatment of common bacterial infections in adults**. The project aims to promote the use of narrow-spectrum antibiotics, encouraging the prescription from “Access” group (based on the AWaRe classification).

### How was done

- **Guidelines** for respiratory, urinary, gastroenteric, and cutaneous infections **based on local resistance patterns, literature evidences and local organization**.
- For each antibiotic, a **fact sheet with pharmacological and safety indications** is available.

#### Drafting

Multidisciplinary team: pharmacists, general practitioners, infectious disease specialists, microbiologists, emergency department physicians.

#### Review

Primary Care Units (NCP).

#### Diffusion

Training events and dedicated webpage.

#### Analyses

Drug-consumption indicators, training participation and webpage access.

## What has been achieved



21 protocols



16 drug fact sheets

- **Increase in access to the web page**, in the first semester of 2024, with a monthly average of 496 accesses among 238 users (78% of all general practitioners).
- **Decrease in antibiotic use**, comparing the first semester of 2024 to the same period in 2023, with a more significant reduction in the first quarter of the year, despite the trends in the 2023-2024 flu season (11,29 vs. 13,16 defined daily dose per 1000 inhabitants).

### What Next

- App and leaflets for patients.
- More selective referral of patients to the emergency department.
- Greater attention to reports of suspected adverse drug reactions by general practitioners.

