

## Example of how to adapt an audit to different GP working circumstances

### Audit Topic: Antibiotic Prescribing Principles

Guidelines: SARI GUIDELINES FOR ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING IN PRIMARY CARE IN IRELAND <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/MicrobiologyAntimicrobialResistance/Antibiotics/GuidelinesfortheprescribingofantibioticsinIreland/>

#### Sample Criteria

1. All antibiotic prescribing should be accompanied by a check for known past history of hypersensitivity and this is recorded in patient notes
2. All antibiotic prescribing should be accompanied by a check for potential drug interactions and this is recorded in patient notes
3. Antibiotics should be used which are in line with the above guidelines or microbiology laboratory recommendations for first line use, unless clinically contraindicated- - pick one or more conditions e.g. prescribing for UTI
4. All antibiotic prescribing should use the most effective dose and duration of treatment for the identified condition, in line with the above guidelines- pick one or more conditions e.g. prescribing for UTI
5. If any antibiotic started at time of diagnosis – was indication recorded in patient notes
6. If a second line antibiotic is used, the reason for its use should be documented

#### SESSIONAL – regular sessions in same practice

Join the practice audit or do this topic as the practice audit; or Review 30 relevant previous patients you have seen in this practice with respect to *any two of the above criteria*. Change your practice as required and re-audit prospectively (i.e. as you see another 30 relevant patients) and record data.

#### Out-of-Hours – regular sessions in same out of hours' service

Review the last 30 relevant patients you have seen with respect to *any two of the above criteria*. Change your practice as required and re-audit prospectively (i.e. as you see another 30 patients) and record data or pick a date in the future and review the last 30 relevant patients you have seen.

#### LOCUM – occasional sessions in different practices

Record data on relevant patients as you see them in these practices for your sessions from now for a period of up to 6 months with respect to criteria 3, 4 and 6\*.

Record the data as per the above. Review the guidelines in terms of what they suggest in respect of these criteria. Change your practice as required and re-audit prospectively (i.e. as you see relevant patients) for up to 6 months and record data.

\* While all criteria in the guidelines are relevant to your daily practice and the process of prescribing antibiotics to patients, these criteria have been selected as being the easiest for you to conduct an audit on your personal actions during a specific patient consultation.

**NOTES for all:**

*If the number of relevant patients seen over the audit period is less than 30, then include more than two criteria should be included in your audit.*

In all instances where 'your patients' are referred to, this can be taken to mean the patients you see. Where 'your practice' is mentioned, this refers to the work you do, not necessarily that you need to be based in one particular practice."