

Key competencies in Antimicrobial Prescription - [link 1](#)

All independent prescribers must be competent in antimicrobial prescribing by demonstrating:

- I. Not initiating antibiotic treatment in the absence of bacterial infection.
- II. An understanding of the key elements of prescribing an antimicrobial including:
 - Obtaining microbiological cultures and other relevant tests before commencing treatment as necessary
 - The choice of agent
 - The route of administration
 - Its pharmacokinetics and how this affect the choice of dosage regimen
 - How to monitor levels and adjust doses, e.g. in the elderly or renal Impairment, or when to seek specialist advice
 - Decisions to switch agent, e.g. from intravenous to oral, narrower to broader spectrum (or vice versa) based on microbiological results
 - The duration of treatment and when to consider review/stop dates
- III. Knowledge of how to select the appropriate antimicrobial based on local guidance
- IV. An understanding of local microbial/antimicrobial susceptibility patterns when considering empiric treatments
- V. An understanding of common side-effects, including allergy, drug/food interactions, contraindications of the main classes of antimicrobials, and the
- VI. Monitoring and documenting side effects
- VII. An awareness of trade and generic names, and the class, of a prescribed antimicrobial to avoid possible harm to patients in whom that antimicrobial is contra-indicated, eg due to hypersensitivity, coagulopathy or organ impairment
- VIII. Knowledge of when not to prescribe antimicrobials, and use of alternatives such as the removal of invasive devices, e.g. intravenous or urinary catheters and incision and drainage of abscesses
- IX. Knowledge of when to use a delayed antimicrobial prescription and how to negotiate this with the patient