



Agenda Item

8.2.7

Quality, Safety & Experience Committee

Antimicrobial Stewardship Report – October 2025

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	18/11/2025
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	Avril Tucker, Principal Pharmacist for AMS
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	Dr Dom Hurford, Executive Medical Director
Noddwr Gweithredol yr Adroddiad / Report Executive Sponsor	Dr Dom Hurford, Executive Medical Director
Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For noting

Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)

Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
Gentamicin audit across all DGH	May 2025	Audit, evaluation, action plans completed. Teaching sessions scheduled to cascade results, feedback and learnings.
Antimicrobial Guardian Awards	9 th June 2025	3 entries for CTM AMS team, 2 entries related to CTM specific work, 1 entry came second with a high commended honour: UTI Friday- managing rUTI in Primary Care
Antimicrobial Stewardship Group Meeting	19 th June 2025	Cancelled due to not being quorate.



(TOR agreed and action log generated, appendix 1 – available on request)		
Antimicrobial Stewardship Group Meeting	4 th September 2025	Reviewed strategy and plan for reviewing/updating antimicrobial guidelines
AMS Agenda Item at Medical Directors Meeting	9 th October 2025	MD away day utilised to share key commitments for all specialties from AMS Group Meeting. Discussed importance of medical representation being at the meetings following unsuccessful June meeting.

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
POW	Princess of Wales Hospital
RGH	Royal Glamorgan Hospital
PCH	Prince Charles Hospital
RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taf
AMS	Antimicrobial Stewardship
NPI	National Prescribing Indicator
NAP	National Action Plan
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
DDD	Defined Daily Dosing
rUTI	Recurrent urinary tract infection



1. Situation /Background

Antimicrobials are critical to maintaining public health in the fight against infection. Through systemic over and inappropriate use of antimicrobials worldwide development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a significant risk if action is not taken to prevent further development of antimicrobial resistant microbes.

The UK government in response to the threat of AMR has developed a 20-year vision for antimicrobial resistance, setting goals to be delivered via a series of 5-year national action plans (NAP).

Building from the May report which introduced the NAP targets, this report focuses on updating our position on the previously referenced targets in 'Optimising the use of antimicrobials'. The targets set by the Welsh Health Circular, which come from the UK NAP are:

Target 4a contains improvement goal 11a (primary care) highlighted in figure 1 and 11b (secondary care): by 2029, aim to reduce total antibiotic use in human populations by 5% from the 2019 baseline.

Improvement Goal 11a: a reduction in total antimicrobial use in primary care consistent with a trajectory required to achieve a minimum 10% reduction against the 2019/20 baseline by 2029/30. The measure is Defined Daily Doses and will be reported as DDDs/1000 STAR PU.

Figure 1: Exert from the Welsh Health Circular issued by Welsh Government in response to publication of the second NAP

Target 4b contains improvement goal 12a (primary care) and 12b (secondary care): by 2029, we aim to achieve 70% of total use of antibiotics from the Access category (new UK category) across the human healthcare system.

Access antibiotics are those with a narrow spectrum of activity, fewer side effects, lower costs, and importantly lower resistance potential¹.

To support delivery of these targets in Wales the All Wales Medicine Strategy Group have developed a series of National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) which align to the NAP goals:

- Total antimicrobial prescribing
- 4C antimicrobials
- Course duration for respiratory tract antibiotics

¹ [UK Access, Watch, Reserve, and Other classification for antibiotics \(UK-AWaRe antibiotic classification\) - GOV.UK](#)

2. Specific Matters for Consideration

a. Primary Care

From a Primary Care perspective CTMUHB is no longer the highest prescribers of antimicrobials in the UK or in Wales when measured in DDDs/1000 STAR-PU, as illustrated in figure 2 (light blue line is no longer the highest based on the most recent data towards the right of the graph).

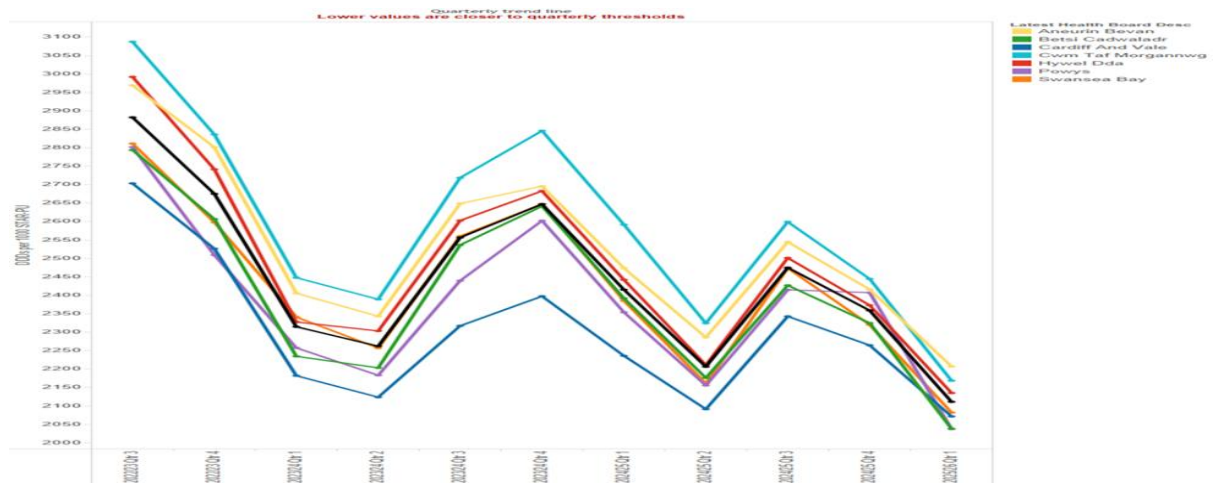


Figure 2: Comparison of All-Wales anti-microbial prescribing rates in primary care

Figure 3 below demonstrates the continuing challenging landscape with high levels of antimicrobial prescribing across Wales. It is worth highlighting CTMUHB is one of the only LHBS to achieve a volume of antimicrobials below the target rate. This highlights the significant progress that has been made across primary care over the last 12 months aligned with the new NPIs linked to the NAP targets.

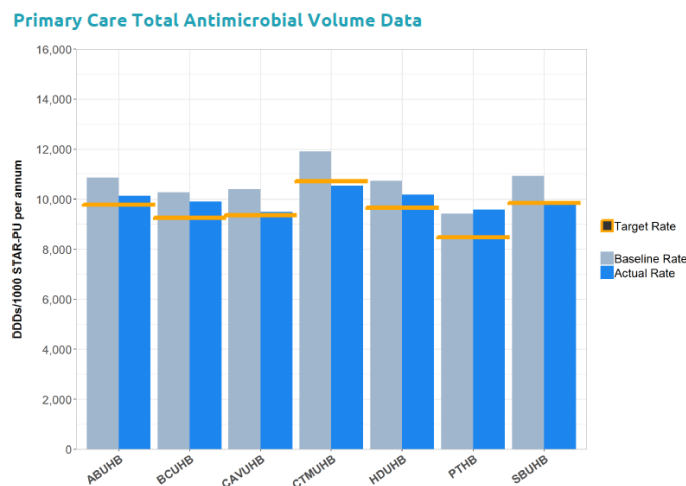


Figure 3: Comparison of All-Wales antimicrobial prescribing rate reductions in primary care

b. Secondary Care

From a secondary care perspective, both metrics are showing significant progress over a relatively short time frame. Figure 4 below, demonstrates the positive changes being made in secondary care with a visible reduction in total antimicrobial usage when measured in DDDs. This has now plateaued but remains one of the lowest of all the Welsh health boards. In addition, figure 5 highlights CTM as the only LHB in Wales delivering an actual prescribing rate of antimicrobials below the target rate.

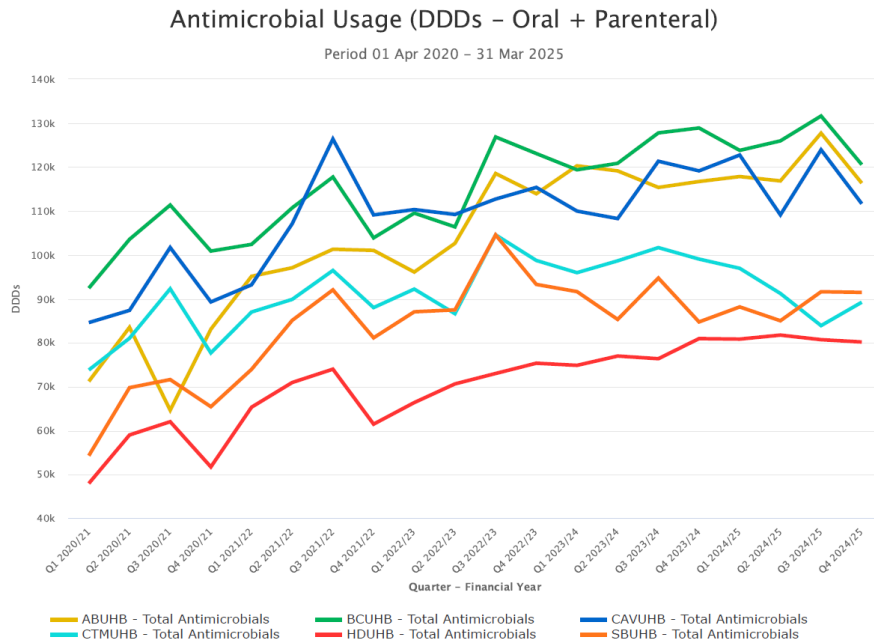


Figure 4: Comparison of All-Wales anti-microbial prescribing rates in secondary care

Secondary Care Total Antimicrobial Volume Data

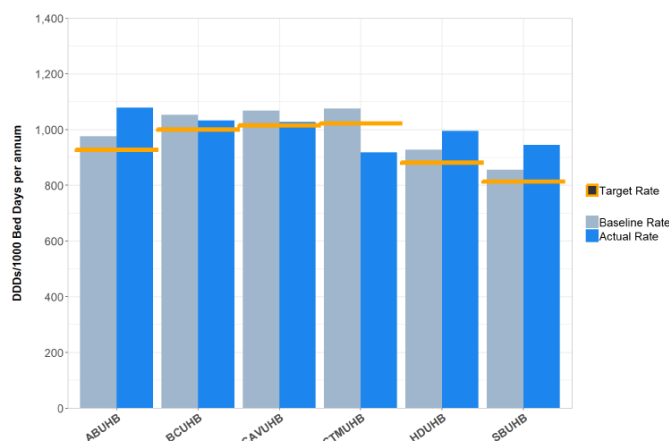


Figure 5: Comparison of All-Wales antimicrobial prescribing rate reductions in secondary care, measured in DDDs/1000 bed days

c. NAP Target 4a Progress

Improvement Goal 11a Primary Care: 10% reduction in total antimicrobial usage by 2029/30.

By the end of 2023/24 CTMUHB in Primary Care delivered an overall **11.6% reduction** in consumption against the target (baseline 2019/20) as measured in DDD /1000 STAR-PU's. CTM is **currently achieving** this target, the only Welsh health board to do so.

Improvement Goals 11b Secondary Care: 5% reduction in total antimicrobial usage by 2029/30.

By the end of 2023/24 CTMUHB in Secondary Care (acute hospital inpatient usage only) delivered an overall **14.6% reduction** in consumption against the target (baseline 2019/20) as measured in DDDs/1000 Occupied Bed Days. CTM is **currently achieving** this target, the only Welsh health board to do so.

- Royal Glamorgan – 31.8% reduction
- Prince Charles – 0.8% increase
- Princess of Wales – 9.3% reduction

d. NAP Target 4b Progress

Improvement Goals 12a Primary Care: 70% of total antibiotic use from the Access category.

Please note - Primary Care (PC) comprises all prescribing by GP in hours (GPIH), GP out of hours (GPOOH), Independent Prescribers, and the Common Ailments Service (Sore Throat and UTI schemes) dispensed in the community.

By the end of 2023/24 CTMUHB in Primary Care delivered **65.7%** antimicrobial usage from Access Category as measured in DDDs. This is a reduction from 67.0% previously reported. We are **currently NOT achieving** this target and plans are in place to address this. No Welsh LHB is currently achieving this target.

Plans include presentations to all GPs at Protected Time for Learning Events over the summer. Penicillin allergy delabelling clinics have been established in RGH and are expanding to PCH and POW which will improve patient prescribing in access categories.

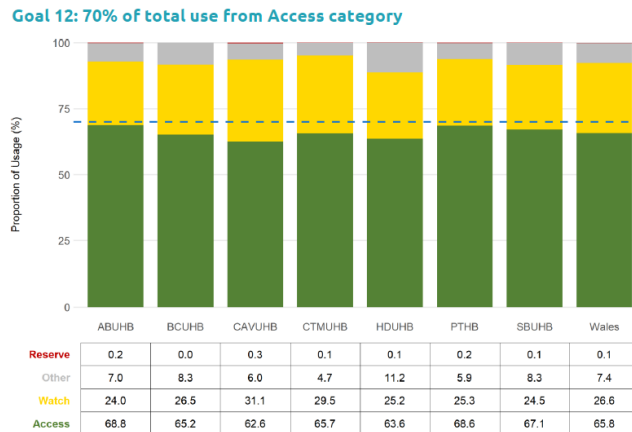


Figure 6: Comparison of All-Wales antimicrobial access category prescribing rate in primary care. Dotted line represents the target.

Improvement Goals 12b Secondary Care: 70% of total antibiotic use from the Access category.

By the end of 2023/24 CTMUHB in Secondary Care delivered **70.5%** antimicrobial usage from Access category as measured in DDDs. We are **currently achieving** this target.

For individual hospitals, the proportions were:

- Royal Glamorgan – 67.4%
- Prince Charles – 71.6%
- Princess of Wales – 73.7%

POW and PCH are **currently achieving** the 70% access target. An action plan is in place to further this work and target RGH.

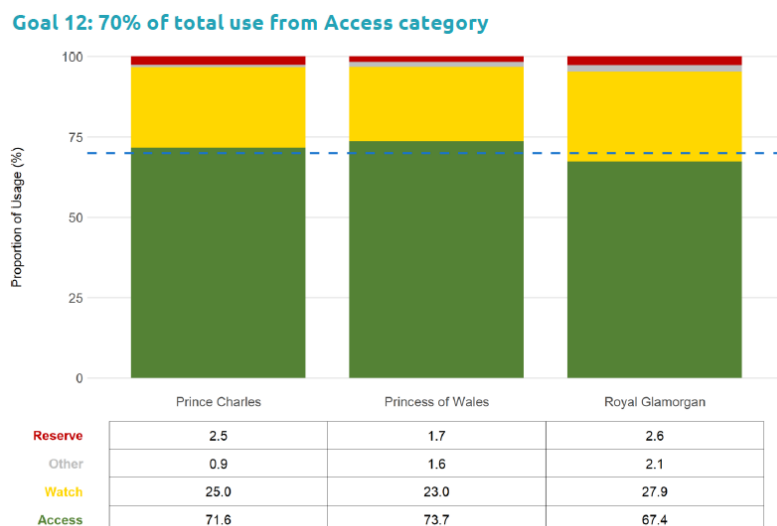


Figure 7: Comparison of each CTM hospital site's antimicrobial access category prescribing rate in secondary care. Dotted line represents the target.



3. Key Risks / Matters for Escalation

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Group was established in September 2024 and meet quarterly. Any actions that arise from the group are forwarded, as appropriate, to the leads of each care group and then cascaded where needed. The membership of the group is reviewed regularly, and a document was sent to the Medical Director's Meeting in October to discuss ongoing engagement with the antimicrobial stewardship agenda. Antimicrobial use crosses all care groups so all sectors are key stakeholders.

4. Assessment

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Nod (au) Strategol BIP CTM /Link to CTMUHB Strategic Goal(s)	Improving Care
	If more than one applies please list below: Sustaining our Future
Dolen i Feysydd Strategol BIP CTM /Link to CTMUHB Strategic Areas	Ageing Well
	If more than one applies please list below: Growing well
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Enablers of Quality</i> <i>(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</i>	Leadership
	If more than one applies please list below: Data to knowledge Learning, improvement & research
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality</i> <i>(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</i>	Effective
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	Yes - Reduce
	If more than one applies please list below:

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? / Quality</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:



<i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>		
Cydraddoldeb a'r Gymraeg <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb a'r Gymraeg? /</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equality and Welsh Language <i>Have you undertaken an Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Outcome for Equality (delete as appropriate):	If no, please include rationale below: All educational slides have had their titles translated to Welsh throughout the presentation.
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Health Board as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i>	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>		

5. Recommendation

The committee is asked to **NOTE** the progress made to date.

6. Next Steps

The CTM AMR strategy has been established with direct correlation to the National Action Plan (NAP).

A robust action plan has been generated to support the outputs of the Antimicrobial Audit completed in Secondary Care at the end of 2024 and progress will be monitored at each appropriate Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting.

Review of the National Prescribing Indicator data indicates progress in key Antimicrobial areas and further work is planned to take place across this new financial year with particular focus on Primary Care Prescribing.