

# National Antimicrobial Point Prevalence Survey of HSE Mental Health Residential Care Facilities 2021/2022

**1003**  
Number of persons surveyed  
in 51 Facilities

## KEY FINDINGS

### Prevalence of Antibiotics



Approximately **1 in 16** (6.3%) persons on an antibiotic

**>50%**  
antibiotics for  
prophylaxis

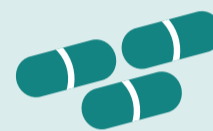


### Green/Red Antibiotics



**38% Red antibiotics**

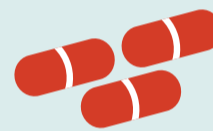
National target for 2022: 32%  
National target for 2023: 30%



**Green:**

**Preferred antibiotics**

e.g. amoxicillin, doxycycline, cefalexin,  
nitrofurantoin, flucloxacillin



**Red:**

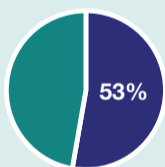
**Reserve antibiotics**

e.g. co-amoxiclav, clarithromycin (macrolides),  
ciprofloxacin (fluoroquinolones), clindamycin,  
other cephalosporins

### Infections Treated



### Dipstick Urinalysis for UTIs



53% facilities perform dipstick urinalysis in  
asymptomatic patients for assessment of UTI

### Drug Interactions



Clarithromycin, ciprofloxacin  
and many other **Red Antibiotics**  
interact with psychotropic agents:

- reduced seizure threshold
- QT prolongation
- drug toxicity

Choose **Green Antibiotics** where possible  
Refer to [www.antibioticprescribing.ie](http://www.antibioticprescribing.ie)

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1



Every person on UTI  
prophylaxis in excess  
of six months should  
be reviewed with a  
view to deprescribing

2



The practice of routine use  
of dipstick urinalysis for  
asymptomatic persons to  
support diagnosis of a  
urinary tract infection  
should cease

3



All staff should  
be aware of antibiotic  
guidelines at  
[www.antibioticprescribing.ie](http://www.antibioticprescribing.ie)

4



**Green Antibiotics**  
should be used in  
preference to Red  
Antibiotics  
where possible,  
if antibiotic indicated

5



**Shorter is better**  
Use shortest effective  
course of antibiotic, e.g.  
5 days for respiratory  
tract infections