



Antimicrobial Point Prevalence Survey of Acute Hospitals 2024 National Results



Key Findings

1. Prevalence of antimicrobials



Approximately **4 in 10** patients were on antimicrobials on the day of the point prevalence survey (PPS)

Ireland is 9th highest user of antimicrobials in EU

EU target of 27% reduction by 2030

9,103

patients surveyed in
43 hospitals



5. Respiratory tract infection (RTI)

20%

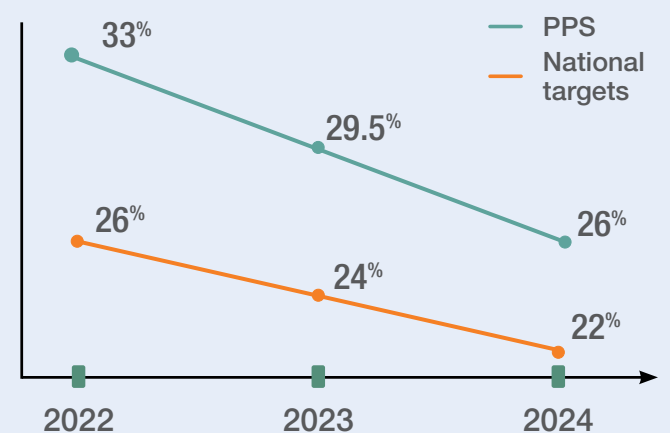
of prescriptions for RTI not in line with local guidelines or microbiologist/infectious diseases physician advice

11%

of prescriptions for RTI were of inappropriate duration

6. Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) duration

Improved percentage of SAP extended beyond 24 hours



2. Intravenous (IV) versus oral antimicrobial use

IV
68%

Oral
32%

512 patients suitable for oral switch on day of PPS

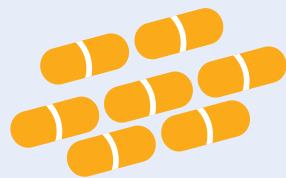
Reduce IV use – oral route is better for patients, healthcare system and environment

3. National Green, Amber and Red antimicrobials



24% Green

safer, likely to be effective, less risk of causing AMR (antimicrobial resistance) and *C. diff*



68% Amber

greater risk of causing AMR, *C. diff* and side effects



8% Red

last line used to treat multi-drug resistant infections

4. Antimicrobial use

Piperacillin/tazobactam

54%

prescribed for community acquired infections

61%

of prescriptions where choice was inappropriate were for respiratory tract infections

Metronidazole

28%

in combination with a second antibiotic with anaerobic activity

Double anaerobic cover is rarely indicated

35%

suitable for oral switch

Metronidazole is 100% absorbed after oral doses



Read the full national report



Key Recommendations

1



IV



Review after 24-48 hours
STOP or Go PO

2



RTI



Start Smart, Then Focus
5-7 days as per local guidelines

3



SAP



Single dose for most procedures