

PCRS Green Red Reports – Antibiotic Prescribing Rate update

We have made some **updates to the way the rate of antibiotic prescribing is calculated**. These changes aim to improve the validity and stability of the rate by:

- More accurately reflecting the individual prescribing habits of the GP
- Helping reduce variability in the rate over time if a GP has a substantial increase or decrease in their panel size

For GPs whose panel sizes are broadly stable, this methodological change will make no difference to interpreting the results ¹

The arrival of summer brings seasonal changes that can make some people vulnerable to certain illnesses. Some tips for managing common illness this summer:

Insect bites and stings: Most insect bites and stings are not serious and will get better within a few hours or days. Occasionally, they can become infected, cause a severe reaction or spread serious illness. To find out more about simple precautions to take to reduce the risk of being bitten or stung by insects and what first aid measures to be taken, please visit the HSE website <https://rb.gy/y1c7h>

Lyme disease: With improving weather, many people are pursuing outdoor recreation. This can expose our patients to a risk of Lyme disease. The vector, infected ticks, should be removed with care to reduce transmission risk. The likelihood of transmission of Lyme disease is very low if the tick is removed within 36 hours. In such cases, prophylaxis is not indicated. Early Lyme disease is a clinical diagnosis, and treatment decisions should be made without recourse to lab results. Details about tick removal, prophylaxis, testing and treatment are available on <http://rb.gy/bo96t>

¹ The previous rate calculation was based on the group of GMS patients who were on a GP's panel in the most recent month. The new rate calculation takes into account the potential monthly changes in a GPs panel of GMS patients over the past 12 months