



## Key message circulated with PCRS Green/Red report

September 2020

We would like to thank you again for your continued efforts in improving the safety and appropriateness of antibiotic prescribing particularly in the context of all the other challenges in general practice currently. We continue to see a trend towards an increased use of safer and more appropriate green agents. Of note is the continued decrease in the use of moxifloxacin. A link to the moxifloxacin safety alert is available on [antibioticprescribing.ie](http://antibioticprescribing.ie) under the “Key messages from AMRIC” tab. *“Even in those particular cases where a fluoroquinolone is necessary, moxifloxacin should only be used where other antibacterial agents, including the other fluoroquinolones, are inappropriate or have failed.”*

As we approach the winter season with the COVID-19 viral pandemic we want to re-assure you rates of bacterial co-infection in COVID-19 patients are very low. If however you do suspect a bacterial co-infection in your patient doxycycline is the agent of choice however this agent is contraindicated in children under 8 years. For other non-COVID-related respiratory indications amoxicillin and doxycycline will remain the safer and more appropriate agents of choice.

Thank you to those who have fed back on azithromycin use. Your feedback states many prescriptions are generated in the hospital setting. AMRIC are engaging with the National Respiratory Programme with plans to progress a quality improvement project.

Check out the “What’s New” tab regularly on [antibioticprescribing.ie](http://antibioticprescribing.ie) as content is continuously being updated, most recently updated are the sections on prescribing in renal impairment and human/animal bite.