



Key message circulated with PCRS Green/Red report

June 2020

Thank you for your continued efforts in improving the appropriateness of antibiotic use in Irish general practice. This is proven by a continued downward usage of most 'red' antibiotics, in favour of more appropriate and safer 'green' antibiotics.

Azithromycin (Zithromax) is an outlier. Your feedback informs us many azithromycin prescriptions are initiated in the hospital setting. We have engaged with the HSE National Clinical Lead for Respiratory, Dr Des Murphy, and later in the year we plan to work collaboratively on defining ways of improving azithromycin prescribing for patients in acute and community settings.

Since the issue of our last report, COVID-19 has changed many aspects of healthcare. To assist you managing this condition there is a new guideline on COVID-19 acute respiratory infection on www.antibioticprescribing.ie. You may be using telemedicine more in your practice. For a telemedicine consultation for potential infections consider the following safety checks if prescription of an antibiotic is clinically required; allergy status, risk of adverse effects and *Clostridioides difficile* infection, potential drug interactions with regular medication and renal dose adjustment.