

# Antibiotics: handle with care!

Antibiotic resistance **keeps increasing** in Europe, threatening patient safety in all healthcare settings

The emergence of bacteria resistant to multiple groups of antibiotics is particularly concerning, as **infections** due to these bacteria can be **severe, costly and sometimes fatal**

Only 70 years after the introduction of antibiotics, we are facing the possibility of a **future without effective antibiotics**

Up to half of all antibiotic use in hospitals is **unnecessary or inappropriate**



**Antibiotic stewardship programmes** can contribute to reduce antibiotic resistance in healthcare settings

## Antibiotic stewardship programmes can be established by following a set of actions

Get the leadership from your setting on board: ensure support and allocation of staff and resources



Appoint leaders: one for the overall programme and one in charge of antibiotic use



Form your team: include prescribers as well as infectious disease specialists, clinical pharmacists and



Find and use tools: e.g. antibiotic guidelines and policies, electronic systems, pre-approval and post-authorizations forms for specific antibiotics



Track and report back: audit proactively antibiotic prescriptions and monitor antibiotic resistance trends, then provide feedback to the team



Ensure training and education: for medical, pharmacy, laboratory, nursing, and non-clinical staff, as well as patients and their families



Reduced inappropriate prescribing by **96%**



Reduced use of broad-spectrum antibiotics by **86%**



Reduced overall expenditures by **80%**



Reduced length of stay or mortality by **65%**



Reduced healthcare-associated infections by **71%**



Reduced antibiotic resistance by **58%**



## Hospitals that implemented an antibiotic stewardship programme reported these improvements:

If you would like to know more about the antibiotic stewardship programme in your hospital, contact [email address] or call [phone number]. See more information at [hospital website].

The statements in this infographic are supported by scientific evidence. Visit <http://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu> or scan the QR code.



Remember: everyone has a role to play to ensure that antibiotics remain effective!