

Louth: Antimicrobial Guidelines - Louth Hospitals: Antimicrobial Guidelines: Guideline Purpose and Scope

Guideline Purpose

The purpose of the guideline is to promote rational antimicrobial prescribing in the acute hospital setting with effective therapies tailored to clinically significant microbiology results for the minimum effective duration to avoid healthcare-associated infection and the development of antimicrobial resistance and promote the rapid and effective treatment with a minimum of adverse effects.

Guideline Scope

The guideline applies to medical, nursing and pharmacy staff in LH. It serves as a guide to antimicrobial prescribing, however it is not intended to meet the clinical needs of every individual patient. Adherence to this guideline will not ensure successful outcome in every case. It does not include all proper methods of care or exclude other acceptable methods of care. The final decision on antimicrobial prescribing must be made by the clinician responsible for the patient. The Consultant Microbiologists and Infectious Diseases (ID) Consultant may be contacted for further advice when required.

The guideline applies to non-pregnant adults only unless otherwise specified. Please consult the antimicrobial guidelines for obstetric patients in the "[Obstetrics and Gynaecology](#)" tile and antimicrobial guidelines for neonates and paediatrics in the "[Neonatal and Paediatrics](#)" tile. The guideline covers empiric treatment of common and serious infections. Prophylaxis of infection, mainly surgical prophylaxis, is also included. The guideline is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to the clinical or laboratory diagnosis of infection. Non-antibiotic treatments, infection control and clinical care pathways are outside the scope of the guideline. Some recommendations involve unlicensed medicines or an off-label use of a licensed medicine. This remains the responsibility of the prescriber.

The doses recommended in the guideline are standard adult doses and may need to be altered with regard to weight, renal function, hepatic function, drug contra-indications, drug interactions and adverse effects. The prescriber is responsible for making themselves aware of and taking this information into account. The "[Obstetrics and Gynaecology](#)" tile provides a list of useful reference sources for checking the safety of antimicrobials in pregnancy and lactation. The prescriber has final responsibility for the antimicrobials prescribed for pregnant and breast-feeding patients. Pharmacy may be contacted for further information if required.

Roles and Responsibilities

This document is a guideline only. **The final decision on antimicrobial prescribing must be made by the prescriber treating the patient based on clinical information and the diagnostic and treatment options available.**