Dear colleague

We are pleased to let you know that our work to evaluate the visibility and uptake of the introductory e-learning session on antimicrobial resistance that also includes national infection prevention and control training is now available to access on our website.

As outlined in our Mandate, we were asked to assess individual and organisational buy-in and usage of this introductory e-learning session on antimicrobial resistance. The government’s call for action as set out in the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018 requires Health Education England (HEE) to lead improvements in the education and training of healthcare workers and have a role in helping strengthen curricula on antimicrobial resistance, responsible prescribing, infection prevention and control and develop e-learning tools to support this.

To begin this work, last year we asked higher education institutions about the extent to which the antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competences developed by Public Health England and the Government’s advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infection (ARHAI) have been embedded into their curricula. We also explored whether there are any gap areas in the educational resources that are available to support current prescribers with the prescribing of antimicrobials.

Our evaluation on the visibility and uptake of this introductory e-learning session on antimicrobial resistance showed that:

- Awareness of the introductory e-learning session on antimicrobial resistance is high.
- More than half of the respondents found this session beneficial in raising health-worker awareness on antimicrobial resistance and/or infection prevention and control and/or antimicrobial stewardship.
- More than half are not actively promoting this session to staff although there is enthusiasm for organisations to do more to promote this to staff.
- The majority of organisations are recommending this session as a non-mandatory training resource although more than half will consider making this mandatory for all staff.

Reducing infections in the NHS is a national priority, and the Government has outlined its desire to halve both healthcare associated Gram-negative bloodstream infections and inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in England by 2020. To help achieve these aims, we have set out a number of recommended actions targeted at ourselves, healthcare providers and other stakeholders within this report.

We would encourage you to:

- raise awareness of these results within your organisations and networks
- provide system leadership as individuals, groups and organisations in enhancing staff training on antimicrobial resistance.

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