

AMOXICILLIN PRESCRIBING FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY CARE

There is a surge of antibiotic usage prescribed and dispensed to children aged 0-9 years old happening in all regions, and this is related to amoxicillin prescribing.

The data above showed the number of amoxicillin items prescribed for children aged 0-9 years by month by region.

The light blue line represents the amoxicillin prescribing of the midlands region with over 20K items issued in May 2021. Continued on page 2...

NEWS

- ◆ **NICE/PHE Summary of Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidance — managing common infections**
The [NICE/PHE summary table of antimicrobial prescribing guidance](#) is currently being hosted on the [British National Formulary \(BNF\) website](#).

NICE GUIDELINE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ **Clostridioides difficile infection: antimicrobial prescribing (NG199)** — visual [summary of the recommendations](#), including a table to support prescribing decisions.

APC ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINE UPDATES

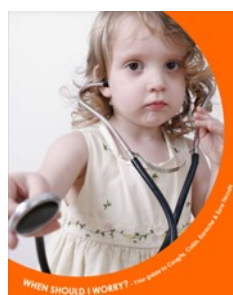
- **Acne** — updated following the [NG198](#) recommendations for mild to moderate and moderate to severe acne.
- **Clostridioides difficile** — NICE C. diff guidelines was recently published in July 2021. Changes include removal of metronidazole as a treatment option and advice given to patients and carers.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Resources to support primary care clinicians

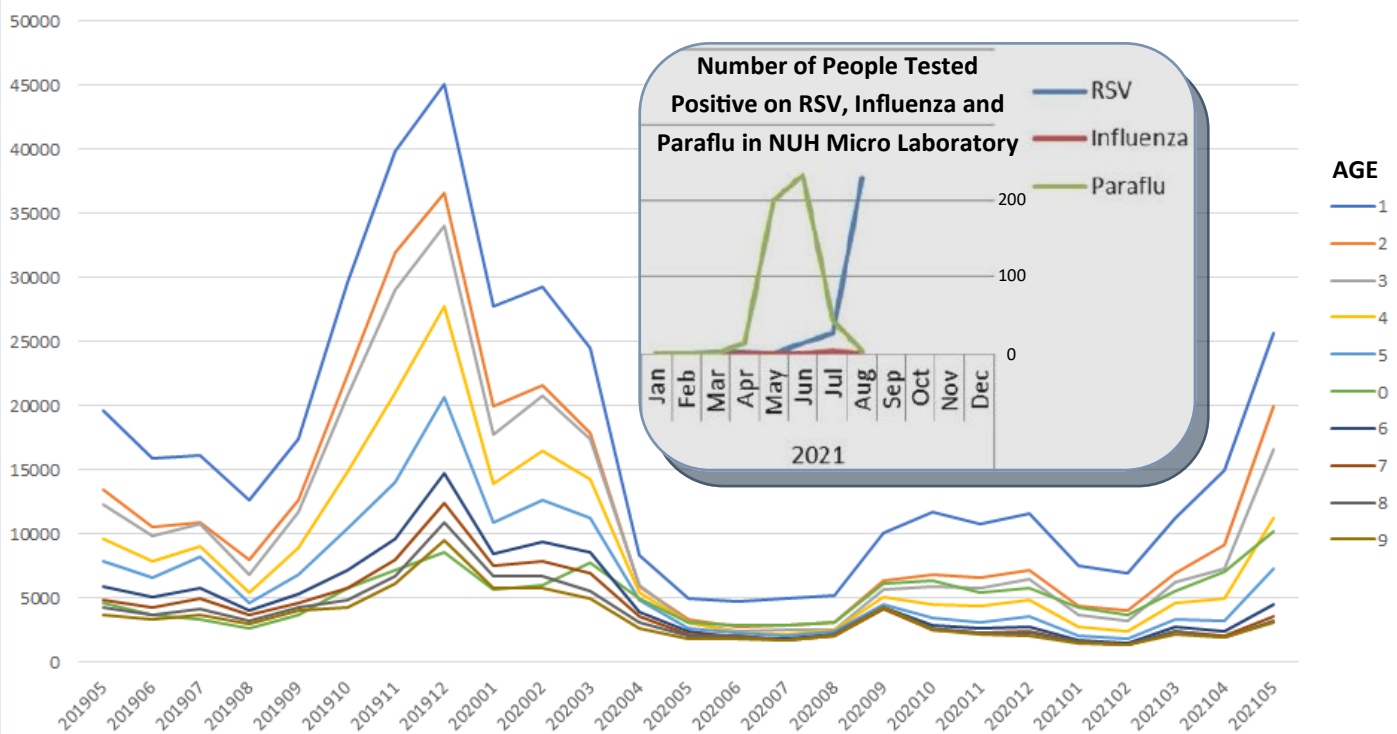
- ◆ [NICE antimicrobial prescribing guideline](#) — includes visual summaries guide when to consider using an antibiotic, self-care advice (for example, analgesia for ear pain), and safety netting.
- ◆ [NICE NG143](#) — Fever in under 5s: assessment and initial management including traffic light system.

- ◆ [When Should I Worry?](#) — a booklet guide to coughs, colds, earache and sore throats



The booklet also includes useful (Number Needed to Treat) NNT and Cates plots to use in consultations

NHS BSA ANALYSIS OF AMOXICILLIN PRESCRIBING FOR CHILDREN BY 1 YEAR AGE BANDS



The graph showed the number of amoxicillin items prescribed and dispensed for children by 1 year age bands by month by selected organisation from May 2019—May 2021.

NHS BSA analysis of amoxicillin prescribing for children by 1 year age bands identifies greatest uptick in use in age bands 0-4 years, and the greatest use in age band 1-3 years.

Moreover, there are some CCG data showing amoxicillin prescribing at a pre-pandemic winter levels. There is clearly unseasonal rates of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) circulating and some unusual respiratory tract infections present at the moment in the community in a way that they haven't been doing during winter. This is a polite reminder to the primary care clinicians that antibiotics should not be prescribed for viral infections.

Whilst the data is happening system wide, it might be a good opportunity to perform an audit within your practices regarding the use of antibiotic for paediatric patients cohort.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? Continued...

- ◆ [Caring for Children with Coughs](#)



Provides a practical safety netting advice for parents and carers

- ◆ [Syndromic surveillance: systems and analyses](#) — weekly summary reports about the spread of illness across England including GPs, Emergency Dept., and 111 activity for RTIs.

Other resources: Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness

- ◆ [Health Education England Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
 - [Primary care antibiotic prescribing](#)
 - [Secondary care antibiotic prescribing](#)