



Te Whata Kura Antibiotic Guidelines

- Te Whata Kura, Aotearoa New Zealand's national antibiotic guideline, is now live.
- After more than a decade of calls for national guidelines¹⁻², this achievement marks a major milestone towards effective, equitable, sustainable and safe antibiotic use across the country.
- In this newsletter, you'll find insights about the recent national consultation, details of the initial endorsements received, and plans for implementation and promotion of Te Whata Kura.
- A sincere thank you to everyone who offered advice, support and pragmatic compromise throughout this two-year journey!

National consultation

- We received over 600 responses from a wide range of health professionals and organisations during our [consultation](#), building on ~1500 pieces of feedback from 12 district antimicrobial stewardship teams and paediatric clinicians.
- Each submission was reviewed to refine content, improve functionality and identify opportunities for future development. A summary of the feedback and our responses can be found [here](#).
- Key recent decisions include:
 - adopting ceftriaxone as the primary intravenous cephalosporin to promote equitable and efficient patient care while minimising cost and waste
 - using the CORB severity score for community-acquired pneumonia
- We will continue to connect with existing national guideline developers to discuss evolving issues and ensure alignment.
- We've also identified groups we hope will work with us next year to improve the range of advice provided in Te Whata Kura (e.g. dentists, optometry) and welcome interest from others who'd like to do the same.

Endorsements

- We're thrilled to announce our first endorsers:
 - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora
 - Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora
 - The Royal NZ College of General Practitioners
- If your organisation wishes to endorse Te Whata Kura and help strengthen antimicrobial stewardship across Aotearoa NZ, we'd love to hear from you:

E: antibiotic.conservation@auckland.ac.nz

Implementation

- Over the coming months, Te Whata Kura will replace existing hospital antibiotic guidelines like Script, Empiric, Eolas and The Pink Book. District antimicrobial stewardship teams will manage these transitions.
- HealthPathways and NZ Formulary are working to incorporate Te Whata Kura guidance. Over time, there will be greater consistency in antibiotic recommendations across national platforms.

Promotion

- Te Whata Kura officially launches on 18 December 2025.
- Further promotion is planned from 16 February 2026, mainly directed at hospitals which are transitioning from existing local guidelines. For this, we'll provide antimicrobial stewardship teams and champions with a kit including posters, screensavers, t-shirts and pens.



Access the Te Whata Kura app on your device

- Te Whata Kura is a progressive web app so you can access it via your browser and also save it to the home screen on your mobile device for use as an app.
- Find our instructions on this [here](#).

Kia pai tō wā whakatā. Kia haumaru te noho
Have a great holiday period and stay safe.

References:

1. Thompson I. Antimicrobial Stewardship in New Zealand. May 2013. Find [here](#).
2. Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. Kotahitanga – Uniting Aotearoa Against Infectious Disease and Antimicrobial Resistance. Dec 2021. Find [here](#).

