



to kill every bug, but could allow a few resistant ones to survive. This can then make patients more susceptible to infections like C.difficile. Previously Leeds was a hotspot for the infection. The city was also one of the highest prescribers of a type of antibiotic called quinolones in Yorkshire. In April last year, NHS Leeds started working closely with GPs to reduce this. Education sessions were held along with an audit to make sure GPs knew the guidance on antibiotic prescribing, and there was also a public information campaign. Since the work started, the number of cases has dropped dramatically. Among patients

outside hospital, there have been fewer than 50 cases a month since last year, with a low of less than 20 last June – beating a regional target. The project, led by the NHS Leeds medicines management team, has been so successful that the same methods are now being used to tackle inappropriate prescribing of another set of antibiotics called cephalosporins. Dr Balmer said doctors were working together with the Government and health bodies on tackling the issue, the message that antibiotics won't automatically be given out also needed to get through to patients. He added: "It's sometimes difficult for doctors not to prescribe

antibiotics, but just because you have not got a prescription for them doesn't mean you are getting less treatment."

● For further information on antibiotics, visit [www.leeds.nhs.uk](http://www.leeds.nhs.uk) or [www.dh.gov.uk/antibiotics](http://www.dh.gov.uk/antibiotics). [katie.baldwin@ypn.co.uk](mailto:katie.baldwin@ypn.co.uk)



CONCERN:  
Dr Simon  
Balmer

"Resistance is probably a natural phenomenon, but we also know the more we use antibiotics, we will get more resistance"

**THRILLED:** The staff at Clarendon Dental Spa



A LEEDS dental practice has scooped a top national award. Clarendon Dental Spa, in Woodhouse Square, was named Best New Practice at the Private Dentistry Awards. The award is to recognise practices which have just started, have reinvented a previously redundant building and which can demonstrate significant business progress. The clinic, which provides NHS and private services and has 11 dentists and eight dental nurses, was nominated for six gongs in total and was also named runner-up in the Best Specialist Referral Practice category at a glitzy ceremony at the Intercontinental Hotel in London. Chesley van der Veen, practice manager at Clarendon Dental Spa, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have picked up this award and to have been nominated for an additional six awards which is unheard of.

"In addition to this we have been nominated in three categories at the Dentistry Awards that are being held on 10 December. These accolades are just reward for the hard work of our staff." Tina Jones, dental contracts manager for NHS Leeds, added: "We are delighted that Clarendon Dental Spa has been recognised nationally. "We hope that by winning this award they will be able to share areas of best practice with other dental professionals in Leeds so that we can continue to provide high quality dental care. "NHS Leeds has heavily invested in NHS dentistry and are pleased to be able to offer NHS dental places to people living in Leeds." To find an NHS dentist, call the Leeds Dental Advice Line on 0800 298 5787 or visit [www.leeds.nhs.uk/dentists](http://www.leeds.nhs.uk/dentists).

In tomorrow's paper: Free garlic bread and potato wedges with a large pizza\*

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