

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Paddy Woods



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SENT BY EMAIL

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HE1-18-1349
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Dear Colleague

NICE Antimicrobial Prescribing Guideline NG141 - Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng141>

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) produce these evidence-based guidelines for managing common infections in the context of tackling antimicrobial resistance – specifically in relation to bacterial infection and antibiotic use.

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland.

This guideline will help to support the work of antimicrobial stewardship teams working in primary and secondary care. Prescribers should consider this guidance when making treatment decisions for individual patients, in consultation with the patient and / or guardian or carer.

The HSCB will review and if necessary update the Northern Ireland Management of Infection Guidelines for Primary and Community Care to reflect this guideline.

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paddy Woods".

Dr Paddy Woods
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Antimicrobial Prescribing Guideline – NG141 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng141
Title	Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for adults, young people, children and babies aged 72 hours and over with cellulitis and erysipelas. It aims to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.</p> <p>This guideline includes recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treatment • advice • reassessment • referral and seeking specialist advice • choice of antibiotic
Related strategically relevant DoH/ HSC policies	None
Inter-Departmental interest	None
Legislative / policy caveats	<p>This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.</p> <p>Where this guidance indicates that informed consent should be obtained and documented, the DoH guidance <i>Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care (2003)</i>, gives advice on the law concerning consent to intervention. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/consent-examination-treatment-or-care</p> <p>This guidance contains some recommendations for off-label use of medicines. Trusts and practitioners must be aware of their responsibilities and ensure that appropriate policies are in place when medicines are used off-label.</p>

	<p>This guidance makes reference to Medicines Practice guidance which is not covered under the current service level agreement between the Department and NICE and therefore not endorsed by the DoH.</p>
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