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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS
Member organization of National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA)

The Island Capsule

Edition 3, Volume 34

The Island Capsule is a publication of the PEI College of Pharmacists and is forwarded to every registrant of the College on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.



World Antibiotic Awareness Week
November 13-19, 2017

In conjunction with world antibiotic awareness week, the Health PEI Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee (PD&T ASSC) is pleased to introduce the following documents to assist PEI healthcare professionals in managing patients with reported beta-lactam allergies:

- [Management of Penicillin and Beta-Lactam Allergy Guidelines](#) which includes:
 - [Beta-Lactam Cross Allergy Matrix \(based on similar core and/or side chain structures\)](#)
 - [Penicillin Allergy Management Algorithm](#)

A multidisciplinary working group of the PD&T ASSC developed these documents which are largely based on work done by the New Brunswick Provincial Health Authorities Anti-Infective Stewardship Committee in 2016. For more information on this initiative, please visit the [Health PEI Microbiology website](#).

THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR PRACTICE

Clinical Pearls from the PD&T ASCC

- There is no significant cross reactivity between penicillins (e.g. amoxicillin) and cefuroxime, cefazolin, or ceftriaxone so these antibiotics can be used safely in the setting of potential IgE-mediated reactions to penicillins.
- Penicillin allergies will be better assessed and potentially downgraded based on a 5-part algorithm. Delisting penicillin allergies have probable long term beneficial effects on morbidity and mortality.
- Clindamycin and fluoroquinolones will be used less often based on these guidelines reducing Cdiff and antibiotic resistance.
- Dentists can strongly consider cefuroxime (with or without metronidazole) rather than clindamycin in patients unable to have penicillin/amoxicillin (with or without metronidazole) due to a true penicillin/amoxicillin allergy.

Please contact Dr. German's Office at 894-2439 if you would like to request an educational session

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health today and it can affect anyone, of any age, in any country. Although this week is the official world antibiotic awareness week, all of us – health care professionals, animal health care professionals, public etc. - should practice good antibiotic stewardship every day of the year. Remember, antibiotics are a precious resource and must be used wisely.

Celebrate World Antibiotic Awareness Week

- 1) Take the pledge to use antibiotics wisely at antibioticwise.ca
- 2) Obtain antibiotic resistance awareness resources from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](http://PublicHealthAgencyofCanada)
- 3) Learn simple things clinicians can do to help reduce unnecessary antibiotic use at ChoosingWiselyCanada.org/antibiotics
- 4) Check out antibiotic awareness resources for the public health sector and health care providers at the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases' AntibioticAwareness.ca website.
- 5) Be aware of the overuse of antibiotics for suspected bladder infections among the elderly with the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI)

Canada's [Symptom-Free Pee: LET IT BE](#) campaign.

• Fun fact: the Weekly Fluid Intake Record was inspired by work done at our PEI public LTC facilities!!

6) Dr. Greg German's [Attacking Superbugs interview](#) with Matt Rainnie on CBC Radio's Island Morning from Nov. 15th.

Rx **Think Twice. Seek Advice.**

Taking antibiotics when they are not needed accelerates emergence of antibiotic resistance, one of the biggest threats to global health.

- Overuse of antibiotics can cause bacteria to become resistant**, meaning current treatments will no longer work
- Not all infections can be treated with antibiotics**; antibiotics don't cure viruses like colds and flu
- Only take antibiotics prescribed to you**, do not share them with family or friends
- Antibiotics are not always the answer.** Do not demand antibiotics if your health care professional says you don't need them
- Always seek the advice of a qualified health care professional** when taking antibiotics

For animals, seek advice from a qualified veterinarian.

HANDLE ANTIBIOTICS WITH CARE

World Health Organization

Important Dates

PEI Jurisprudence Exam

The next scheduled sitting of the PEI College of Pharmacists Jurisprudence Exam will be held December 4, 2017 from 9:30-11:30 am at the PEI College of Pharmacists office. Registration application and fees are due by Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

PEBC

The deadline for application for the Winter sitting (April 7-8, 2018) of the PEBC Qualifying Exam for pharmacy technicians is December 8, 2017. There are 2 sittings remaining of the Qualifying exam before the December 31, 2018 registration deadline for the transition pathway applicants.

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