

## Antimicrobial Stewardship Scale and Spread project

Antibiotic resistance is a major global public health threat. Northern Ireland has the highest use of antimicrobials per person in United Kingdom. Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) are one of the main sources of healthcare associated (HCA) gram negative infections. 45%\* of all infections treated in long term care facilities were UTI resulting in a significant use of antibiotics. Regional work was therefore commenced to improve urinary tract infection (UTI) antimicrobial stewardship in nursing homes in the Northern Trust area. This work was one of four agreed Regional Scale and Spread areas of work in NI's Health and Social Care Quality Improvement (HSCQI) network.

Staff in three care homes in the Northern Trust area commenced work alongside four Antrim GP practices with the aim of reducing the GP practices' inappropriate antimicrobial prescribing by 10% for the care home residents. An existing Public Health Agency decision aid/checklist tool was tested and refined based on feedback from staff involved in this pilot. A GP referral process was also being progressed. The work is currently paused from February 2020 due to COVID pressures within the care home setting. However the intention is still to test these tools in the future within three care homes (Hutchinson Group) in the Antrim area and four GP practices within the Antrim/Ballymena GP Federation supported by an education programme for care home staff endorsed by the Public Health Agency and a data monitoring package. **Project Team pictured below.**



Alongside the care homes and the GP practices, the project demonstrates collaboration with the Northern Trust, Public Health Agency (PHA), the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and Quality Improvement experts. Although pioneered in the Northern Trust area, this work has the potential to benefit the long-term health of the NI population as the project is spread across other NI care homes and GP Practices following outcomes based testing. This quality improvement initiative is an example of how all sectors can work together using quality improvement science methodology to make a real difference to a critically relevant issue.

Following the testing phase it is anticipated this model will be spread to other care homes and GP practices in the Northern trust GP Federation area, initially working with group managed homes. Baseline data has been collected.

\*HALT (NI) Report