

## FEATURED ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP TOOLS

### About These Tools

The following antimicrobial stewardship tools were featured at the November 19<sup>th</sup> CME event, “*Rowing Against the Tsunami—Antimicrobial Stewardship Tools for Healthcare Providers*”. Readers should refer to the archived recordings of presentations for added context and relevant research-based evidence.

Several tools are freely available online. Some (i.e. PSA and Viral Rx) have been piloted in the Southern Health-Santé Sud region<sup>i</sup>, where evaluation of their effectiveness and audits of uptake are underway. Opportunities for adaptation and wider adoption in Manitoba may be explored.

For more information on current antimicrobial stewardship initiatives in the SH-SS region, contact Cécile Dumesnil, Chair, AMS Committee: [cdumesnil@southernhealth.ca](mailto:cdumesnil@southernhealth.ca)

### Smartabx.ca

The SmartAbx website, [www.smartabx.ca](http://www.smartabx.ca), was created by a group of healthcare professionals dedicated to improving and supporting the judicious use of antimicrobial agents. It is intended for use by healthcare professionals practicing in the Southern Health-Santé Sud region. Tools for use in practice are available on the website and were demonstrated with case studies at the CME event. (See presentation #4 by Dr. Ganesan Abbu)

### Viral Rx

In April 2017, Southern Health-Santé Sud issued a ‘Viral Prescription’, branded with the RHA logo, for use in Emergency Services centres and clinics within the region. **Printed prescription pads** (600) were distributed to practitioners in ERs. As well, an **electronic Viral-Rx** was made available for download on Electronic Health Records (Accuro and Junocu) systems to promote routine use by all prescribers in the region. The RHA plans to audit uptake of the prescription after 6 months (i.e. over ‘flu season’) to determine its uptake in practice.

#### Why a Viral-Rx?

Primary care physicians are commonly faced with seeing patients suffering with symptoms consistent with a viral infection. Real or perceived pressure exists for the physician to provide a treatment, often in the form of an antibiotic which creates the overutilization and resistance issues we are now facing.

Studies have demonstrated that clinician and patient education is a vital component of reducing inappropriate antibiotic use. The Viral-Rx allows a physician to “prescribe” non-medical strategies for managing the symptoms of a viral infection. The tool provides physicians with a quick method of supporting patient education on the importance of prudent use of antimicrobials, while satisfying patients’ needs for clear instructions from trusted medical professionals.

Development of the Viral-Rx built on efforts by a group of physicians in Winkler and Morden, was coordinated by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Sub-Committee, with support from the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases. Pilot project funds were applied to complete adaptation and disseminate the tool.

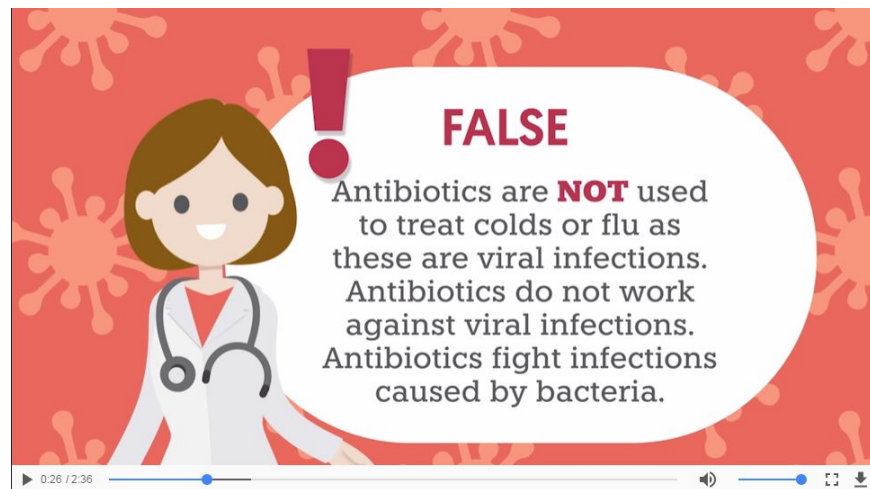
## PSA Video – Antibiotic Wise Quiz

This animated public education video provides basic information on antimicrobial resistance and appropriate antibiotic use in an engaging format. Viewers are called upon to “Be Antibiotic Wise!” and ‘quizzed’ on their knowledge of appropriate antibiotic use.

One version of the PSA, intended for use in waiting rooms, is silent but incorporates captions. A second version is accompanied by a narrative and sound track. Both versions are available in either English or French.

Content for the quiz was adapted from the ‘Antibiotic Wise’ website, which

supports the ‘Do Bugs Need Drugs?’ media campaign initiatives in BC. The PSA was produced as part of a collaborative pilot project that ran in the SH-SS region in 2016-2017. The video was launched in April 2017 and ran on media screens in several patient waiting rooms. As well, the RHA’s website displays the narrated version (English and French). Other opportunities for dissemination in the region or province may be identified.



## Choosing Wisely Manitoba

The ‘antibiotics wisely’ campaign, supported by Choosing Wisely, provides resources for patients and healthcare providers. A tip sheet for providers, posters for waiting rooms, and patient hand-outs focus on some areas of common antibiotic misuse and overuse (e.g. asymptomatic bacteriuria, uncomplicated otitis media, sinusitis, and upper respiratory infections).

- In Manitoba, download resources at <http://choosingwiselymanitoba.ca/> or contact Choosing Wisely Manitoba for information on obtaining print quality material.
- For the national campaign materials, visit <https://choosingwiselycanada.org/campaign/antibiotics/>

## **Do Bugs Need Drugs? – A community program for the wise use of antibiotics.**

**Background:** This multi-modal program is designed to ultimately decrease antibiotic overuse and misuse and the spread of resistant organisms. Do Bugs Need Drugs? was originally piloted in Grande Prairie, Alberta from October 1998 through March 1999. Educational programs were provided for doctors, pharmacists, school aged children and the general public. The project was successful in decreasing antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory tract infections by 12% compared with the previous year. A post-intervention survey indicated increased public awareness and knowledge especially among adults whose children were taught about antibiotic resistance in school. Based on the success of this pilot study, the program expanded to Alberta, British Columbia, and elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

**Websites:** Several resources for the public and healthcare providers are available at: [www.dobugsneeddrugs.org](http://www.dobugsneeddrugs.org) or [www.francais.dobugsneeddrugs.org](http://www.francais.dobugsneeddrugs.org). As well, [www.AntibioticWise.ca](http://www.AntibioticWise.ca) is the website supporting the DBND media campaign initiatives in BC. The site offers many resources designed for the public and patients.

**Bugs & Drugs** is an antimicrobial reference guide for healthcare professionals. The resource is available in a website format ([www.bugsanddrugs.org](http://www.bugsanddrugs.org)). The website is available to users accessing the website from an I.P. address from anywhere in Alberta, as well as from provinces/territories that have negotiated memoranda of understanding with Alberta Health Services (BC, NWT and the Yukon). Practitioners can download the guide as a subscription based iPhone or android app through iTunes and Google Play, respectively. “Bugs & Drugs® is the recommended reference for management of infectious diseases and appropriate antimicrobial use. It is peer-reviewed, evidence-based, and frequently updated.” (See: <http://antibioticwise.ca/professionals/>)

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<sup>i</sup> The pilot project, entitled ‘Regional Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Scale Up Project’, was a collaborative initiative primarily involving the Southern Health-Santé Sud RHA, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, Do Bugs Need Drugs – BC, Choosing Wisely Manitoba, and the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID). NCCID coordinated the project, supported by funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada. For information on the project, contact Harpa Isfeld-Kiely, Senior Project Manager, NCCID: [Harpa.Isfeld-Kiely@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Harpa.Isfeld-Kiely@umanitoba.ca).