



## **HOSPITAL GETS TOUGH ON ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING FOR AWARENESS DRIVE**

Tameside Hospital staff are tackling the rise in antibiotic resistance – one of the biggest threats to patient safety across Europe – by supporting European Antibiotic Awareness Day on Friday November 18.

Microbiologists and pharmacists will join the hospital's infection control team to spread the word to staff, patients and medical students, encouraging the prudent use of antibiotics.

Staff have organised a stand outside the staff dining room to raise awareness of the issues and will be distributing leaflets and posters throughout the hospital.

Tameside Hospital's consultant medical microbiologist Dr Howard Sacho, said: "Antibiotic resistant bacteria, such as MRSA and E.coli are a major concern for the NHS. The number of infections due to antibiotic-resistant bacteria is growing. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics is one of the main factors so it's really important that staff and patients understand the issues."

Appropriate use of antibiotics can reduce antibiotic-resistant bacteria, so antibiotics must not be given to patients unnecessarily. Patients can also help by understanding when antibiotics are appropriate for their condition and when antibiotics should not be given.

Local General Practitioner John Doldon, added "There is a common belief that antibiotics can be used to treat all kinds of illnesses. Although antibiotics are powerful medicines that when used properly can save lives, inappropriate use can lead to serious unwanted effects. This event is an ideal opportunity to better inform patients so that they understand their GP's decisions on when and why to prescribe antibiotics"

European Antibiotic Awareness day is on 18 November and is a Europe-wide public health initiative aimed at encouraging responsible use of antibiotics.

**ENDS**

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