



Improving NHS prescribing safety and efficiency:

Reducing antibiotic resistance



General practice accounts for **£9 billion of NHS medicine spending**

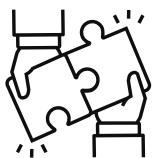


While many prescribed medicines help patients, some prescriptions are unnecessary and can cause harm.



Key challenges include the threat of antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance is a critical global health threat where once-treatable infections become difficult to cure, leading to longer illnesses, higher medical costs, and increased risk of severe complications or death.



We partnered with West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to develop evidence-based campaigns to improve prescribing in general practice. The programme:

Provides regular feedback to practices.

Compares their prescribing rates with others.

Offers practical guidance for improvement.

How has this made a difference?

The programme has reached over 1,000 practices across Yorkshire and North East England, delivering **significant improvements for reducing antibiotic prescribing**:



**21.5%
reduction**

in overall antibiotic prescribing in Humber and North Yorkshire (2023-24).

**13.3%
reduction**

in antibiotic prescribing for upper respiratory infections in West Yorkshire (2022-23).

System-wide benefits:

- Cost savings through reduced unnecessary prescribing.
- Improved patient safety by reducing harmful prescribing.
- Supports the NHS priority of tackling antimicrobial resistance.
- Integration of research evidence into routine NHS practice.
- Collaboration between YH ARC and the Integrated Care Systems.

