 Goodfellow Gems are chosen by Goodfellow Director, Bruce Arroll to be either practice changing or thought provoking. You are being mailed these as you are a member of the Goodfellow learning community.

Stop using Augmentin. Bring back the Augmentin-free office

The only first-line indications for Augmentin are human/animal bites or diabetic foot ulcers (with cellulitis), yet there were over 400,000 prescriptions for Augmentin in 2017 (12% of the population).¹ The good news is that use has reduced from 14% to 12% since 2015, a reduction of 61,000 people. However, DHB variation is greater than two-fold, ranging from 8% to 17%.

Many conditions, including COPD exacerbations, Sinusitis, Acute otitis media and Strep throat (in most areas) can be managed without antibiotics. Where antibiotics are indicated, Amoxicillin is the first-line antibiotic for community-acquired pneumonia and prophylaxis of infective endocarditis prior to invasive dental procedure.²

Consider running an 'Augmentin-free office' where you must get a colleague's permission to prescribe Augmentin. It really slows things down and results in better prescribing (some of the recommendations have changed since 2007).³

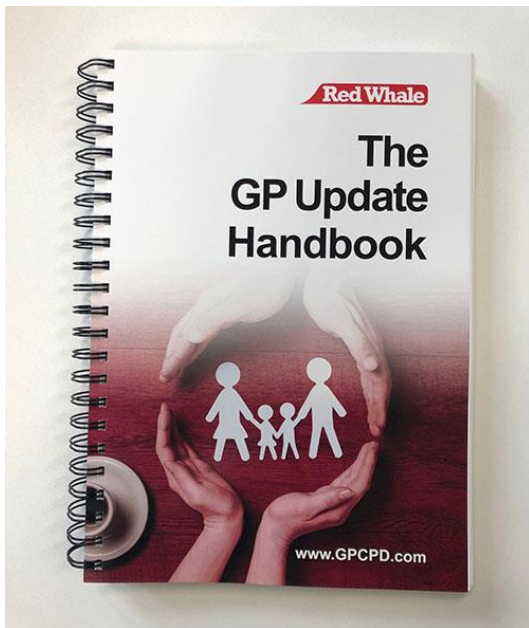
References:

1. Community use of antibiotics. Health Quality and Safety Commission [Click here](#)
2. Antibiotics: choices for common infections. bpac^{nz} (2017) [Click here](#)
3. Upfront: The Augmentin-free office. bpac^{nz} (2007) [Click here](#)

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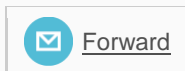
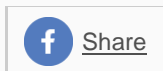
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