

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution: As Appendix 1

From: Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer for Wales

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Category: Immediate (cascade within 24 hours)

Title: Covid-19 Therapeutic Alert - Antimicrobials (Azithromycin And Doxycycline) Not Beneficial In The Management Of Covid-19 (Sars-Cov-2) Positive Patients

Dear colleagues,

The recent announcement from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) supported PRINCIPLE trial demonstrates the vital importance of robust clinical trials in our response to COVID-19. The lack of beneficial effect in patients aged over 50 who are treated with either azithromycin or doxycycline at home in the early stages of COVID-19 suggests that these antibiotics should not be used within primary care for the treatment of COVID-19 unless there is an additional licensed indication. Overuse of antibiotics in the community can contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

Yours sincerely



DR FRANK ATHERTON

To: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:

All General Practitioners

To: Health Boards and NHS Trusts:

Chief Executives
Medical Directors for onward distribution to:
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Cc: Public Health Wales:

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