



Key Messages – AZTREONAM SHORTAGE

1

AZTREONAM SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION

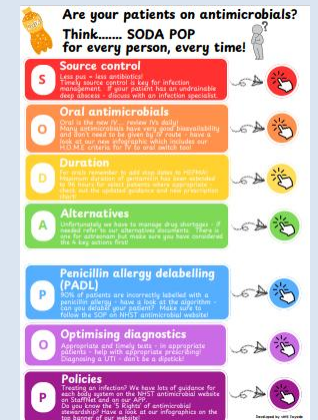
Due to a change in the sole UK supplier of aztreonam injection there is a current disruption in the supply chain. This is likely to be ongoing for a number of months. There are no 2g vials currently available in the UK. There is a supply of 1g vials which can support usage in the short term. 2g vials will be removed from NHS Tayside ward stock lists and 1g vials will be added.

Clinical areas
should only order
aztreonam 1g vials
until advised
otherwise

2

REDUCING USE OF AZTREONAM AND OTHER IV ANTIMICROBIALS

NHS Tayside is the second largest user of IV antimicrobials in Scotland. Lots of amazing work has already been carried out by clinical teams to reduce IV antimicrobial and the shortage of IV aztreonam provides an opportunity to further enhance reduced IV usage and ensure aztreonam is only used where required. Key considerations are available in our **SODAPOP!** document [here](#).



3

GENTAMICIN

Remember guidance changed in 2024 and suitable patients can have up to 96 hours of gentamicin. Patients with reduced renal function can often have one dose of gentamicin before review. Clinical staff should ensure they are aware of the [true exclusion criteria](#) and recommended renal function cut offs. More detailed key points guidance on gentamicin is available [here](#).

4

THINK IVOST! ORAL IS THE NEW IV!

IV to oral switch has many benefits for patients, staff and the environment. The bug doesn't know how the drug gets to it! Many antimicrobials we use are very well absorbed so should be given by the oral route unless the patient's oral route is compromised. Our handy bioavailability guidance is [here](#) and remember to use the [H.O.M.E criteria](#) to review patients on IV antimicrobials daily. **Every IV dose avoided makes a difference!**



5

ALTERNATIVES TO AZTREONAM

If there is a situation where there is no stock of aztreonam, then there is a guide to considering options and potential alternatives available on the NHS Tayside [Antimicrobial website](#) (alternatives section on blue menu on left hand side) or direct link [here](#).