

**ADVISORY NOTE**

**Western Australian Committee for Antimicrobials (WACA)**

**Inappropriate extemporaneous or novel use of antimicrobials**

The WACA recommends that extemporaneous or novel use of antimicrobials in topical, intracavitary, intra-tissue and prosthetic materials should be avoided unless supported by scientific evidence, in accordance with the [Statewide Medicines Formulary](#) or with the approval of the hospital Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC).

The WACA is aware of a number of cases of antimicrobials being used in extemporaneous or novel preparations for treatment or prophylaxis of infection. There is often limited or no evidence to support these practices which contravene national guidelines, and which may contribute to the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

Examples of inappropriate use include impregnation of medical devices with intravenous antibiotic formulations, the use of antibiotics in sinus irrigation devices, soaking implants in antibiotic solutions, and the topical application of antibiotic eye and ear preparations to wounds.

The WACA recommends that antimicrobial formulations be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions the current Therapeutic Guidelines –‘Antibiotic’ , the Statewide Medicines Formulary, or an individual patient treatment approved by the local DTC.

Health professionals are encouraged to share this information with colleagues and seek prior individual approval from the DTC for any uses of antimicrobials that are outside of the Statewide Medicines Formulary or which contravene the [WA Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidance Document 2016](#)



Dr Owen Robinson  
Chairman, WACA



Dr Christopher Etherton-Beer  
Chairman, WATAG

Approved by:	WA Committee for Antimicrobials (WA.CA)				
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