

# Good practice guidance on ratification of antimicrobial policies

The Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) provides national guidance on requirements for NHS Board Antimicrobial Prescribing Policies and on specific uses of antimicrobials e.g. surgical prophylaxis, gentamicin and vancomycin.

NHS Board Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMTs) are responsible for implementing SAPG guidance at local level and ensuring that Antimicrobial Policies are reviewed annually.

The AMT is responsible for agreeing local antimicrobial policies and guidance for both hospital and primary care therefore suitable primary care representation on the AMT is essential.

Policies and other antimicrobial prescribing guidance should be developed by the AMT in collaboration with local clinical leads. Primary Care policies should be discussed with any local primary care committees at an early stage.

Policies and guidance, once agreed by the AMT, should be submitted to the Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) for formal approval. To ensure the efficiency of this process and to prevent delays in implementation of policies, AMT meetings should be scheduled prior to ADTC meetings.

The diagram below illustrates the suggested process:

