

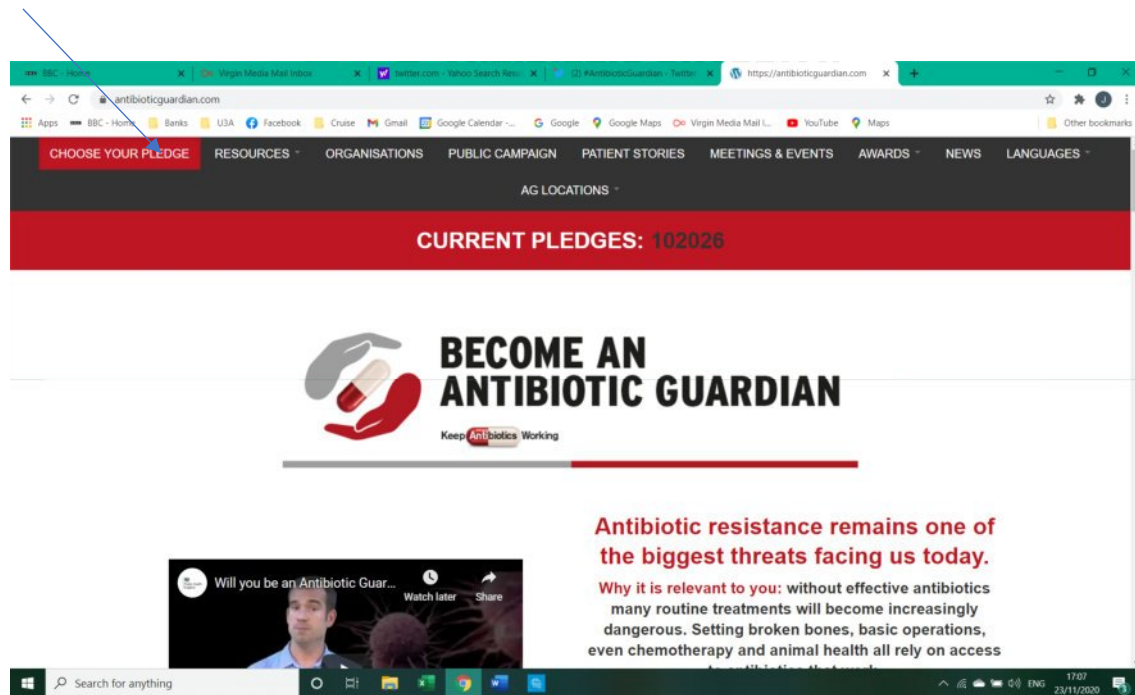
Working with the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency November 2020

At the November Zoom meeting of the Patient Participation and Involvement Group hosted by the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency, in which I participated representing our U3A, there was a presentation and discussion around understanding the variation in patient attitudes to current treatments for Atrial Fibrillation and how best healthcare professionals can adapt the consultation process depending on patient attitude and beliefs. It is very important that patients have a good understanding of their condition, and the reason for treatment, as sadly Atrial Fibrillation increases the risk of stroke and we need to encourage people to mitigate this risk by taking the required treatment.

Antibiotics

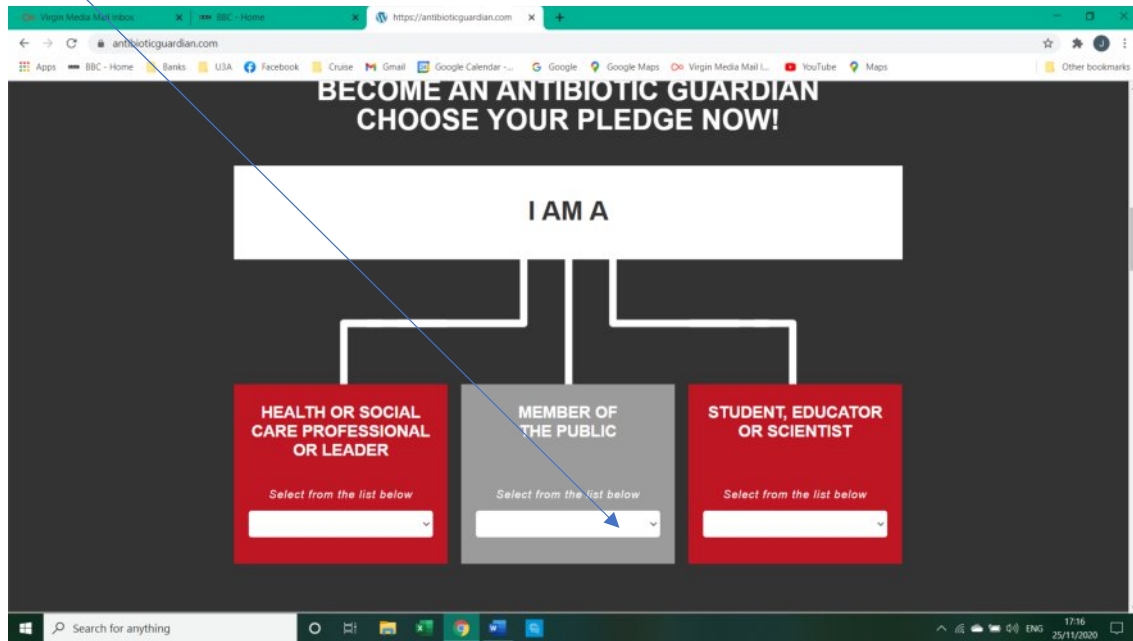
NHS Patient Safety are asking that as many people as possible sign up on the Antibiotic Guardian website <https://antibioticguardian.com/> to pledge to try to use antibiotics safely to reduce the risk of the development of antibiotic resistance in the community.

When entering the site, select 'Choose Your Pledge' at the top left-hand part of the screen,

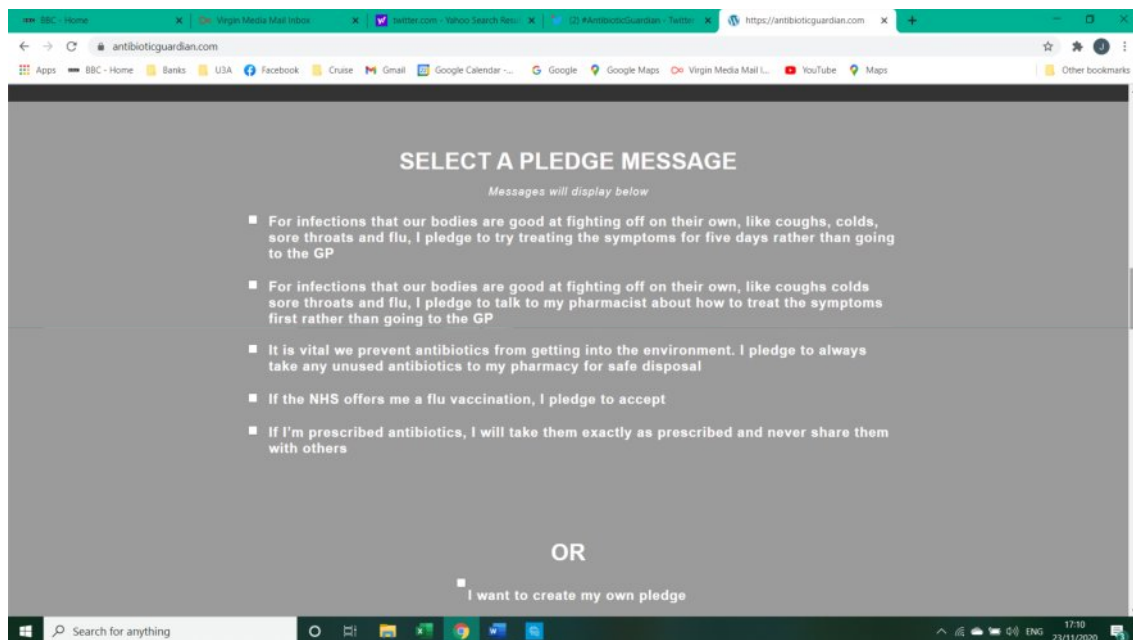


The screenshot shows the homepage of the Antibiotic Guardian website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with several menu items: 'CHOOSE YOUR PLEDGE' (highlighted with a blue arrow), 'RESOURCES', 'ORGANISATIONS', 'PUBLIC CAMPAIGN', 'PATIENT STORIES', 'MEETINGS & EVENTS', 'AWARDS', 'NEWS', and 'LANGUAGES'. Below the navigation bar is a red banner that reads 'CURRENT PLEDGES: 102026'. The main content area features a logo of a hand holding a pill, followed by the text 'BECOME AN ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN' and the tagline 'Keep Antibiotics Working'. Below this is a video player with the title 'Will you be an Antibiotic Guar...' and a play button. To the right of the video player, there is text that reads: 'Antibiotic resistance remains one of the biggest threats facing us today. Why it is relevant to you: without effective antibiotics many routine treatments will become increasingly dangerous. Setting broken bones, basic operations, even chemotherapy and animal health all rely on access'.

Then after reading the information that appears, assuming that you are pledging as a member of the public, select your 'type' from the dropdown box.



This will enable a list of options of several pledges to appear and you can then choose which is your preferred option.



Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting

Following the virtual workshop in which I participated in September relating to the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme I joined in another session on 25th of this month. To recap, this is the system whereby healthcare professionals and patients can report an adverse reaction to any medication or a fault found with a medical device. The MHRA is planning to update the reporting system considering the views of patients as well as healthcare professionals on how to simplify the reporting process. I and other lay people as well as healthcare professionals are contributing to discussions as to how the reporting system can be improved, along with ensuring that there is timely and appropriate feedback to the reporter on the outcome of their report.

I would also encourage anyone who experiences side-effects from any of their medication, particularly a fairly new product on the market, or a problem with a medical device, to report this via the Yellow Card Scheme mentioned above.

(<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>).