

Did you know...

Up to 70% of nursing home residents will be prescribed one or more courses of systemic antibiotics within one year.

Source: *CDC Core Elements for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Long-Term Care Facilities*

Share These Resources with Your Team:

1. AHRQ Antibiogram/Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/2Xr1ida>
2. Education, Policies and Tracking for *C.diff* and Antibiotics: <http://bit.ly/2ZBnEpF>

Use Antibiograms to Reduce Unnecessary Exposure to Antibiotics

Antibiotic use is a leading risk factor for *Clostridioides difficile* (*C.diff*) infections. An antibiogram is an aggregated report that displays the organisms found in diagnostic specimens sent to the lab alongside the organism's susceptibility to various antibiotics. This helps prescribers make prompt, empirically-based decisions by selecting the most appropriate therapy right from the start.

Let's Get Started

1. Use the Antibiogram/Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit (<http://bit.ly/2Xr1ida>), developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
2. Form a working team – led by the medical director – including the lab, pharmacist, infection preventionist and nursing leadership.
3. Gather your resource materials and data - lab and dispensing pharmacy play a major role (AHRQ Tool 2).
4. Create your facility-specific antibiogram using a ready-made template (AHRQ Tool 5).
5. Educate, train and distribute.

Tips for Success

1. Appoint co-champions, one for the clinical lead and one for project management oversight. Avoid asking one person to fill both roles.
2. Engage infectious disease specialists from your transferring hospitals. Share your plans and invite them to speak to your team.
3. Consider a regional antibiogram if you do not have the minimum diagnostic sourced isolate level of 30 – check with your state health department.
4. Document your ongoing efforts to develop an antibiogram within your Antibiotic Stewardship Committee.
5. Work with your electronic health record (EHR) vendor to develop direct access to the antibiogram.

Simple Strategies for Infection Prevention