ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (ASP)

THE MISUSE OR OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS REMAINS A GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

In health care, antibiotics are one of our most powerful drugs for fighting life-threatening bacterial infections.

An Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) is a coordinated program that promotes appropriate use of antimicrobials. This includes antifungals, antivirals, and antibiotics. An effective ASP will measure, evaluate, and improve how antibiotics are prescribed by clinicians and used by patients to treat infections, protect patients from harm caused by inappropriate use, and combat antibiotic resistance.

The result of a successful ASP is improved patient outcomes, reduced microbial resistance and decreased spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms.

The ASP is designed to ensure use of the right antibiotic, at the right dose, for the right duration, and reduce unnecessary antibiotic use.

FOLLOW EVIDENCED-BASED GUIDELINES FOR YOUR ASP.

Priorities for Hospital Core Element Implementation | CDC

Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making | AHRQ

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (ASP)

Core Elements of ASP

Core Elements	Implementation Priorities
LEADERSHIP	
Dedicate necessary human, financial, and information technology resources	ASP prescriber and/or pharmacist leaders(s) have antibiotic stewardship responsibilities in contract, job description, or performance review
ACCOUNTABILITY	
Appoint a leader or co-leaders, such as a prescriber and pharmacist, responsible for ASP management and outcomes	ASP is co-led by a prescriber and pharmacist
PHARMACY/STEWARDSHIP EXPERTISE	
Appoint a pharmacist, as the co-leader of the ASP, to help lead implementation efforts to improve antibiotic use	ASP prescriber and/or pharmacist leaders(s) have completed specialty training, or other training on antimicrobial stewardship
ACTION	
Implement interventions, such as prospective audit and feedback or preauthorization, to improve antibiotic use	ASP has facility-specific treatment recommendations for common clinical condition(s) and performs prospective audit/feedback or preauthorization
TRACKING	
Monitor antibiotic prescribing, impact of interventions, and other important outcomes, like C. difficile infections and resistance patterns	Facility submits antibiotic use data to the NHSN Antimicrobial Use Option
REPORTING	
Regularly report information on antibiotic use and resistance to prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and facility	Antibiotic use reports are provided at least annually to target feedback to prescribers. In addition, the ASP monitors adherence to facility-specific treatment recommendations for at least one common clinical condition
EDUCATION	
Educate prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and patients about adverse reactions from antibiotics, antibiotic resistance, and optimal prescribing	No implementation priority identified

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