

Simple Strategies for Targeting Antimicrobial Stewardship Interventions

Think About It!

Each year, more than 700,000 individuals die due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data states more than half of antibiotic prescribing for selected events in hospitals was not consistent with recommended prescribing practices.

Take Action!

Multiple departments and programs are responsible for appropriate antibiotic use. Make sure your antibiotic stewardship program consists of a multidisciplinary team with representation from departments across the organization that can provide guidance, support, and oversight for the program's activities.

Leadership:

- Demonstrate the hospital leadership's commitment to antibiotic stewardship as a patient safety priority
- Dedicate the resources necessary to support the antibiotic stewardship program
- Provide prescriber education support and assistance
- Provide computer assisted decision support
- Identify and appoint qualified individuals to lead (or co-lead) the antibiotic stewardship program
- Ensure that those responsible for the program have the necessary expertise to implement hospital-wide strategies and practices to improve the use of antibiotics

Pharmacist:

[Five Ways Hospital Pharmacists Can Be Antibiotics Aware](#)

- Verify penicillin allergy
- Avoid duplicative anaerobic coverage
- Reassess antibiotic therapy
- Avoid treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria
- Use the shortest effective antibiotic duration

Nursing:

[Toolkit to Enhance Nursing and Antibiotic Stewardship Partnership](#)

- Engage front-line nurses in antibiotic stewardship
- Obtain leadership support to implement nurse-driven antibiotic stewardship activities
- Implement a nurse-driven diagnostic stewardship intervention to improve urine and respiratory culturing practices and a penicillin allergy algorithm to improve penicillin allergy documentation

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Use this Simple Strategies to find tips and resources and to guide your stewardship program development and the role each discipline plays in improving antibiotic use to help fight antibiotic resistance.

Physician:

[National Quality Partners Playbook™: Antibiotic Stewardship in Acute Care](#)

- Assess all patients for antibiotic appropriateness: [Gen-Assessment.docx](#)
- Formulary restriction and pre-authorization
- Prospective audit with intervention and feedback
- Order sets, treatment algorithms and clinical guidelines
- Antibiotic streamlining or de-escalation
- Pharmacokinetic and pharmacokinetic dose optimization
- Intravenous to oral switch programs
- Antimicrobial cycling
- Taking advantage of rapid diagnostic tests
- Offering advice on surgical prophylaxis

Additional Resources:

- [R3 Report - Requirement, Rationale, Reference](#)
- [Antimicrobial Stewardship Centers of Excellence](#)
- [Implementation Resources for Hospitals - Antibiotic Use](#)
- [Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#)