

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM TO ENHANCE ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

Goal: To optimize clinical outcomes while reducing unintended consequences of antimicrobial use.

Stewardship Team and Administrative Support:

- The support and collaboration of hospital administration, is essential (A-III).
- Antimicrobial stewardship is considered a medical staff function and is usually directed by an infectious disease physician or co-directed with a clinical pharmacist with infectious disease training (A-III).
- It is desirable that the program functions under the auspices of quality assurance and patient safety (A-III).
- Core members of the stewardship team should include an infectious disease physician and a clinical pharmacist with infectious diseases training (A-II), a clinical microbiologist, an information system specialist, an infection control professional and hospital epidemiologist, (A-III).

Core Strategies:

- Prospective audits of antimicrobial use with direct interaction and feedback to prescribers can result in reducing inappropriate use of antimicrobials (A-I).
- Formulary restriction and preauthorization can lead to immediate and significant reductions in antimicrobial use and cost (A-II).

Supplements to Core Strategies:

- Education is considered to be an essential element to increase the acceptance of stewardship strategies (A-III)
- Multidisciplinary development of evidence-based practice guidelines incorporating local microbiology and resistance patterns can improve antimicrobial utilization (A-I).
- Streamlining or de-escalation of empirical antimicrobial therapy on the basis of culture results and elimination of redundant combination therapy can more effectively target the causative pathogen, resulting in decreased antimicrobial exposure and substantial cost savings (A-II)
- Optimization of antimicrobial dosing is an important part of antimicrobial stewardship (A-II).
- A systematic plan for parenteral to oral conversion of antimicrobials can decrease the length of hospital stay and health care costs (A-I).
- The clinical microbiology laboratory plays a critical role in antimicrobial stewardship by providing patient-specific culture and susceptibility data to optimize individual antimicrobial management and by assisting infection control efforts in the surveillance of resistant organisms and in the molecular epidemiologic investigation of outbreaks (A-III).