

# ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY: EDUCATION



Judicious antimicrobial use is a shared responsibility. Education to inform and engage health care professionals and trainees in stewardship activities and improve antimicrobial prescribing is foundational. Building awareness about appropriate antimicrobial use and the harms of unnecessary use can help to align expectations for patients, families and caregivers.

REQUIRED RESOURCING:  
**LOW-MODERATE**



## Implementation Considerations

**Build Capacity:** Antimicrobial stewardship leads should have specialized training; this can include infectious disease speciality training or a certificate program. For other health care providers, education can focus on overarching antimicrobial stewardship principles, appropriate antimicrobial prescribing (initiation, selection, dosing, duration) for specific conditions, harms of overprescribing and local antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use patterns. Incorporating antimicrobial stewardship principles into staff and trainee onboarding and annual learning modules can help to support scalable and sustainable educational efforts.

**Amplify Awareness Efforts:** For patients and their caregivers, education can focus on appropriate use of antimicrobials, storage & disposal and harms of unnecessary antimicrobial use. Coordinated by the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID), the AMR Aware Canada campaign aims to build AMR awareness and share leading resources. These include resources and a webinar series for health care providers and materials for the public which can be integrated into local education efforts. Several other organizations such as Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Choosing Wisely Canada, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Do Drugs Need Bugs (DBND) offer additional resources.

**Combine with Interventions:** Education should be paired with and used to support other stewardship interventions, and the content should be aligned with the desired behaviour change. For example, combine education with [prospective audit and feedback](#) and peer comparison feedback to support desired improvements to antibiotic prescribing decisions.

**Optimize Timing:** Repetition of key messages is needed to sustain impact over time. World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) occurs annually from November 18–24 and is an ideal time to plan educational activities. The global “Go Blue for AMR” campaign is another way to highlight the importance of antimicrobial stewardship.



## Impact

In isolation, education has minimal long-term impact on behaviour. Education is most effective as part of broader antimicrobial stewardship interventions and repeated over time.

## Sources

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