

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY: FORMULARY RESTRICTION



Restricted dispensing of targeted antimicrobials on the hospital's formulary, according to approved criteria.

REQUIRED RESOURCING:
LOW-MODERATE



Implementation Considerations

Define Restriction Criteria:

The use of restricted antimicrobials may be limited to certain indications, prescribers, services, and/or patient populations. Criteria are developed by the hospital's antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP), antimicrobial subcommittee and/or the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and should be regularly reviewed and updated.

Select Enforcement Approach:

Prescribing restrictions may be enforced either prospectively (requiring preauthorization before dispensing) or retrospectively (audit of restricted antimicrobials after dispensing). Formulary restriction requiring preauthorization is considered a priority action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the quality of ASPs.

Integrate into Workflow:

Incorporation of restriction criteria into computerized provider order entry (CPOE), along with recommendations for alternative therapy can help increase appropriate antimicrobial selection.



Impact

Formulary restrictions, particularly with preauthorization, helps to ensure appropriate use and generally decreases cost.

However, requiring preauthorization is more resource-intensive and dependent on hospital culture. Specific agents can be targeted if resources are limited.

Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Priorities for hospital core element implementation](#). Atlanta, GA: CDC; 2022.

Davey P, Marwick C, Scott CL, Charani E, McNeil, Brown E, et al. [Interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing for hospital inpatients](#). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;2(2):CD003543.