

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY: ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES



Multidisciplinary, evidence-based recommendations using local epidemiological data to improve the initiation, selection, and duration of therapy for common infectious diseases.

REQUIRED RESOURCING:
MODERATE



Implementation Considerations

Leverage Existing Evidence:

Facility-specific treatment recommendations for common clinical conditions (e.g., community-acquired pneumonia, urinary tract infection, skin and soft tissue infection) are considered a priority action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the quality of antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs). These can be adapted from regional or national guidelines (i.e., Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance) and tailored to local practice, formulary and [antibiogram](#).

Address Key Targets: Recommendations should also include guidance on common antimicrobial stewardship targets such as conditions that do not require antimicrobial treatment (e.g., asymptomatic bacteriuria in the majority of hospitalized individuals) and recommendations for short-course therapy.

Encourage Uptake: Making recommendations available at the point of decision-making supports knowledge translation. Integration into [clinical decision support](#) systems / computerized provider order entry (CPOE) can facilitate adoption.



Impact

Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines establishes the basis for evaluating the appropriateness of prescribing (i.e., assessing antimicrobial prescribing against guidance for a specific clinical condition) and are foundational for other antimicrobial stewardship strategies including [formulary restriction](#), [intravenous to oral conversion](#), and [prospective audit and feedback](#).

Sources

Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). [Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance](#). Ottawa, ON: AMMI; 2025.

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

Choosing Wisely Canada/Canadian Society of Hospital Medicine. [Five things physicians and patients should question](#). Toronto, ON: Choosing Wisely Canada; 2021 [updated 2024].

Grant J, Saux NL, Antimicrobial Stewardship and Resistance Committee (ASRC) of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada. [Duration of antibiotic therapy for common infections](#). J Assoc Med Microbiol Infect Dis Can. 2022;6(3):181-97.