

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY: PROSPECTIVE AUDIT AND FEEDBACK



Formal assessment of antimicrobial therapy by trained individuals, who identify opportunities to optimize antimicrobial therapy and make recommendations to the prescriber.

REQUIRED RESOURCING:
HIGH



Implementation Considerations

Implement Prospective Review: Prospective audit and feedback (PAF) is usually performed by physicians and/or pharmacists. It is considered a priority action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the quality of antimicrobial stewardship programs. Facility-specific [antimicrobial prescribing guidelines](#) are foundational for conducting PAF.

Optimize Prescriber Communication:

Communication strategies with prescribers can vary:

- Regularly scheduled in-person stewardship rounds (e.g., handshake stewardship)
- Ad hoc face-to-face, secure electronic messenger, or phone conversations
- Notes or consultations in the chart

Tailor Program Design: This strategy is labour-intensive to implement and sustain but there is flexibility with program design depending on resourcing levels. Programs may prioritize initial implementation to focus on high-use settings, specific admitting services or target select antimicrobial agents to achieve maximum impact with available resources.



Impact

PAF is one of the most effective antimicrobial stewardship interventions. Numerous studies have demonstrated improvement in prescribing and patient outcomes however impact varies with intensity. While the usual approach to PAF is to make recommendations related to suboptimal prescribing, providing positive feedback can also be beneficial.

Sources

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