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Healthcare-
Associated
Infections

Gap Analysis for Antibiotic Stewardship in Ambulatory Care

Instructions: Complete this document to evaluate the practices antibiotic stewardship activities on an annual basis and to define areas for further improvement. Approaches to address the antibiotic stewardship areas in this document can be found throughout the AHRQ Safety Program Toolkit.

The questions labeled as Fundamental (➡) indicate components/resources that all ambulatory Antibiotic Stewardship Teams should have, and those labeled as Enhanced (✚) indicate components/resources that may further enhance antibiotic stewardship activities. If antibiotic stewardship practices are missing Fundamental components or the Antibiotic Stewardship Team is not performing core interventions, then the stewardship team should determine how to manage these deficiencies, including meeting with senior leadership to discuss additional resources. If some Enhanced items are missing, discuss whether implementation of these items might be of benefit to the practice and what resources would be needed to operationalize them.

Key: ➡ = Fundamental, ✚ = Enhanced

Antibiotic Stewardship Leaders

Job Title	Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
Clinician Lead	➡ Has a Clinician Lead been identified to assist with implementation of antibiotic stewardship activities?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
	✚ Is supporting antibiotic stewardship activities included in the Clinician Lead's job description or contract?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
	✚ Has the Clinician Lead received specialized training in antibiotic stewardship? Describe in comments.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	

Job Title	Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
Administrative Lead	➡ Is an Administrative Lead (e.g., office manager, clinic nurse, pharmacist) with the ability to gather data and to coordinate antibiotic stewardship activities a member of the Antibiotic Stewardship Team?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
	➡ Does the Administrative Lead have access to data?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
	➡ Does the Administrative Lead have the ability to convene meetings at the practice or have devoted time at existing meetings to discuss antibiotic stewardship issues?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
	➕ Is supporting antibiotic stewardship activities included in the Administrative Lead's job description or contract?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Senior Leadership	➡ To whom do the Antibiotic Stewardship Team report?	☐ Medical director of the practice ☐ Leadership group of the practice ☐ Quality improvement leadership ☐ Other: ☐ There is no reporting structure	
	➡ How often does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team meet with senior leadership?	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually ☐ Never ☐ Other:	

Job Title	Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
	➡ Does senior leadership actively support antibiotic stewardship activities? Select all that apply.	☐ No ☐ Yes: Attends practice meetings where antibiotic stewardship activities are discussed ☐ Yes: Provides adequate funding for antibiotic stewardship activities ☐ Yes: Provides protected time for the Antibiotic Stewardship Team to conduct antibiotic stewardship activities ☐ Yes: Aids in encouraging information technology support for data or interventions ☐ Yes: Provides back up to the Antibiotic Stewardship team if prescribers do not follow antibiotic stewardship protocols ☐ Yes: Decouples clinician-level patient satisfaction scores from antibiotic prescribing ☐ Yes: Aligns antibiotic stewardship goals with organizational strategic goals ☐ Yes: Includes antibiotic stewardship activities as part of job descriptions or evaluation criteria for the Antibiotic Stewardship Team ☐ Yes: Connects the Antibiotic Stewardship Team to relevant stakeholders ☐ Other:	

Antibiotic Stewardship Team Structure

Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
➡ What are the **activities of the Antibiotic Stewardship Team?** Select all that apply. Note: activities listed are suggestions for team activities; not all teams will perform all activities.	☐ Establish and review antibiotic use protocols ☐ Track antibiotic use data ☐ Recommend approaches to improve antibiotic use ☐ Perform proactive risk assessments to determine areas in which harm related to antibiotic prescribing could be avoided with interventions ☐ Develop, review, and distribute materials to clinicians and staff regarding optimal antibiotic prescribing ☐ Develop, review, and distribute materials to patients and family members regarding optimal antibiotic prescribing ☐ Provide feedback to clinicians about antibiotic prescribing practices ☐ Review approaches employed by local labs for reporting testing results, culture, and susceptibility data ☐ Obtain, review, and distribute an antibiogram ☐ Other: ☐ No activities performed	
➡ Does the **Antibiotic Stewardship Team develop** an annual plan outlining goals for the following year?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
➕ Does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team document how the practice maintains compliance with The Joint Commission's **Antimicrobial Stewardship** requirements, the **Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)** program through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Ambulatory Care**? Select all that apply.	☐ Yes, The Joint Commission's Antimicrobial Stewardship requirements ☐ Yes, the MIPS program ☐ Yes, the CDC Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Ambulatory Care ☐ No	

Antibiotic Use Protocols/Guidelines

Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
➡ Does the practice have infectious condition specific diagnosis and treatment protocols/guidelines?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
➡ Which of the following infectious condition specific diagnosis and treatment protocols/guidelines has the practice developed? Select all that apply.	☐ Upper respiratory tract infections ☐ Influenza ☐ Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) ☐ Acute bronchitis ☐ Acute otitis media ☐ Pharyngitis ☐ Sinusitis ☐ Community-acquired pneumonia ☐ Urinary tract infections ☐ Asymptomatic bacteriuria ☐ Skin and soft tissue infections ☐ Management of patient with antibiotic allergies ☐ Other: ☐ Other: ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	
➡ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines indicate when antibiotics are and are not indicated?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➡ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines provide recommendations for diagnostic testing?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➡ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines provide recommendations on choice of therapy?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➡ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines provide recommendations on duration of therapy?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➕ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines provide interpretation of microbiology results (including rapid diagnostic tests)?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➡ Do the infectious condition protocols/guidelines provide guidance on how patients should follow up or when patients should seek emergency attention?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	
➡ Are infectious condition protocols/guidelines disseminated to clinicians at the point of care?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	

Antibiotic Stewardship Area	Answers	Comments
➡ Are infectious condition protocols/guidelines periodically reviewed at meetings which diverse members of the practice attend (e.g., clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, office manager)?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	

Interventions (Part A)

Core Interventions	Data Point	Frequency of Data Gathering	Frequency of Data Feedback
Monitoring of Antibiotic Prescribing Data For each data point, indicate the frequency of data gathering and the frequency of data feedback.	Number of visits	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Number of viral respiratory tract infection visits	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Number of visits for specific ICD-10 codes (e.g., pharyngitis, sinusitis)	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Antibiotics prescribed overall	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Antibiotics prescribed during visits with viral respiratory tract infection diagnoses	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Antibiotics prescribed for specific ICD-10 codes (e.g., pharyngitis, sinusitis)	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A

Core Interventions	Data Point	Frequency of Data Gathering	Frequency of Data Feedback
	Antibiotics prescribed per prescribing clinician in the practice	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Number of visits	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Viral respiratory tract infection visits	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Antibiotics prescribed overall	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A
	Type of Antibiotics Prescribed: ☐ Amoxicillin ☐ Amoxicillin/clavulanate ☐ Azithromycin ☐ Cefaclor ☐ Cefadroxil ☐ Cefdinir ☐ Cefditoren ☐ Cefixime ☐ Cefpodoxime ☐ Ceproxil ☐ Ceftibuten ☐ Cefuroxime ☐ Cephalexin ☐ Ciprofloxacin ☐ Clarithromycin ☐ Clindamycin ☐ Delafloxacin ☐ Dicloxaxillin ☐ Doxycycline ☐ Erythromycin	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Biannually ☐ Annually ☐ Other: ☐ N/A

Core Interventions	Data Point	Frequency of Data Gathering	Frequency of Data Feedback
	☐ Fosfomycin ☐ Levofloxacin ☐ Linezolid ☐ Metronidazole ☐ Minocycline ☐ Moxifloxacin ☐ Nitrofurantoin ☐ Omadacycline ☐ Penicillin ☐ Rifampin ☐ Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole trimethoprim ☐ Tedizolid ☐ Vancomycin PO ☐ Other:		

Interventions (Part B)

Antibiotic Stewardship Data	Answers	Comments
➡ How are data on antibiotic prescriptions monitored at the practice?	☐ Data from dispensing pharmacy ☐ Data from electronic medical record ☐ Manual data entry ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	
➡ How are antibiotic stewardship data provided to members of the practice?	☐ Staff meetings ☐ Individual phone calls ☐ Individual emails ☐ Signs in clinic ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	
➡ At what level are antibiotic stewardship data provided? (Check all that apply)	☐ Clinician ☐ Practice ☐ Multiple practices ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	

Other Interventions To Consider (Part C)

Antibiotic Stewardship Data	Answers	Comments
✚ List interventions being conducted by the Antibiotic Stewardship Team to improve antibiotic use outside of core interventions.		

Microbiology

Antibiotic Stewardship Data	Answers	Comments
✚ Does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team have access to an antibiogram?	☐ Yes, specific to our clinic ☐ Yes: borrowed regional referral laboratory data ☐ Yes: borrowed from hospital laboratory data ☐ Yes: borrowed from hospital laboratory data focused on outpatient sites ☐ No	

Education

Antibiotic Stewardship Data	Answers	Comments
➡ Does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team provide updates to clinicians about judicious antibiotic prescribing and the importance of antibiotic stewardship?	☐ No ☐ Yes: Nurses ☐ Yes: Pharmacists ☐ Yes: Clinicians ☐ Yes: Other(s)	
➡ How frequently does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team discuss antibiotic improvement efforts with the practice?	☐ Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other: ☐ N/A	
➡ Does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team conduct education on approaches to communicate with patients and families when antibiotics are not needed?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
➡ Does the Antibiotic Stewardship Team develop educational material for patients and families?	☐ Yes ☐ No	