Timeline for Implementing Antibiotic Stewardship in Ambulatory Care

This timeline is intended to guide a practice in developing an Antibiotic Stewardship Team and implementing antibiotic stewardship activities. Practices are encouraged to tailor the timeline to meet practice-specific needs.

**AHRQ Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use**

|  Topic  | Supporting Materials  | Activities for the Antibiotic Stewardship Team | Activities for Healthcare Providers and Clinic Staff |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Why Your Practice Should Focus on Improving Antibiotic Prescribing | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/antibiotic-prescribing-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/antibiotic-prescribing-guide.docx)  | Review the presentation with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.  |
| Implementing Antibiotic Stewardship in Your Practice  | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/implementing-stewardship-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/implementing-stewardship-guide.docx)[Accessing and Reporting Antibiotic Prescription Data](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/accessing-reporting-rx-data.xlsx) documentTimeline for Implementing Antibiotic Stewardship in Ambulatory Care (this document)[Implementation Guide for Ambulatory Care Antibiotic Stewardship](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/antibiotic-stewardship.pdf)Commitment Poster ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/commitment-poster-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/commitment-poster-spanish.docx))The Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making Posters ([1](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/four-moments-poster-1.pdf) and [2](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/four-moments-poster-2.pdf)) | Review the presentation and begin implementing the following steps:* Engage senior practice leadership
* Build an Antibiotic Stewardship Team, consisting of a clinician and an administrative lead
* Garner support from practice members to engage in improving antibiotic use
* Determine how to access antibiotic prescribing data and what data to obtain

Review timeline.Review implementation guide. Sign the Commitment Poster, consider adding photographs, and display where it can be seen by healthcare providers, clinic staff, and patients/families.Determine how best to display the Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making (e.g., poster, screensaver). | Attend practice meeting in which the Antibiotic Stewardship Team discusses stewardship plans for the practice.  |
| Improving Communication Between Members of the Practice Around Antibiotic Decisions | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/improving-communication-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/improving-communication-slides.docx)  | Review the presentation with the practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.  |
| Communicating With Patients and Families About Antibiotic Decisions  | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/communicating-decisions-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/communicating-decisions-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Communicating With Patients and Families About Antibiotic Decisions](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/communicating-decisions-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Communicating With Patients and Families About Antibiotic Decisions](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/communicating-decisions-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Antibiotics: When Are They Needed? ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/antibiotics-brochure-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/antibiotics-brochure-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Never Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Influenza and RSV | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-rsv-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-rsv-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Influenza and RSV](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-rsv-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Influenza](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-rsv-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: The Flu ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/influenza-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Never Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Acute Viral Upper Respiratory Infection: The Common Cold | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/common-cold-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/common-cold-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (“the Common Cold”)](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/respiratory-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Upper Respiratory Infection (“the Common Cold”)](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/respiratory-one-pager.pdf) Patient handout: The Common Cold ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/common-cold-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/common-cold-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Never Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Acute Bronchitis | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Acute Bronchitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Acute Bronchitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-one-pager.pdf) Patient handout: Acute Bronchitis (Chest Cold) ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/bronchitis-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Sometimes Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Acute Otitis Media in Children | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/aom-children-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/aom-children-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Acute Otitis Media](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/aom-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Acute Otitis Media](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/aom-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Ear Infection ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/ear-infection-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/ear-infection-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Sometimes Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Sinusitis | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinusitis-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinusitis-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Acute Sinusitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinusitis-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Acute Sinusitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinusitis-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Sinus Infection ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinus-infection-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sinus-infection-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Sometimes Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Pharyngitis | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pharyngitis-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pharyngitis-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Streptococcal Pharyngitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pharyngitis-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Streptococcal Pharyngitis](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pharyngitis-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Strep Throat ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/strep-throat-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/strep-throat-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practiceReview discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| The “Usually Antibiotics” Diagnoses: Community-Acquired Pneumonia | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/cap-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/cap-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Community-Acquired Pneumonia](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/cap-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Community-Acquired Pneumonia](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/cap-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Pneumonia ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pneumonia-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/pneumonia-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| Best Practices in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cellulitis and Skin and Soft Tissue Abscesses | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Skin and Soft Tissue Infections](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Skin and Soft Tissue Infections](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Skin and Soft Tissue Infections ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/skin-soft-tissue-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| Best Practices in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Asymptomatic Bacteriuria and Urinary Tract Infections | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Urinary Tract Infections](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Urinary Tract Infections](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Urinary Tract Infections ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/uti-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| Best Practices in the Management of Patients With Antibiotic Allergies | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/allergies-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/allergies-guide.docx)Discussion guide: [Antibiotic Allergy](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/penicillin-allergy-discussion-guide.docx)One-page document: [Penicillin allergy](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/penicillin-allergy-one-pager.pdf)Patient handout: Penicillin Allergy ([English](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/penicillin-allergy-handout-english.docx) and [Spanish](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/penicillin-allergy-handout-spanish.docx)) | Review the presentation with the practice.Review discussion guide on same topic with practice.Review monthly/quarterly antibiotic prescription data with the practice. | Attend practice meeting in which the presentation is reviewed.Review one-page document.Determine best approach to sharing handout with patients and families. |
| Sustaining Antibiotic Stewardship Efforts in Ambulatory Care  | [Presentation](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sustaining-antibiotic-slides.pptx) and [facilitator guide](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/sustaining-antibiotic-guide.docx)[Gap Analysis Tool for Antibiotic Stewardship in Ambulatory Care](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/ambulatory-care/gap-analysis-tool.pdf)  | Review “Sustaining Antibiotic Stewardship Efforts in Ambulatory Care” presentation.Complete the Gap Analysis Tool.Begin to work on a sustainability plan for the next ~1 year.Collect, analyze, and summarize antibiotic prescription data. |  |

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