**AHRQ Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use**

# Learning From Antibiotic-Associated Adverse Events

An antibiotic-related adverse event is any event or situation involving the prescription or administration of antibiotics that you would not want to happen again because it either caused your patient harm or had the potential to cause harm. The purpose of this tool is to provide a structured approach to help providers identify the steps that led to the adverse event, to reduce the likelihood that another patient will be harmed in the same way. It is strongly encouraged that this tool be completed by a multidisciplinary team. For more information about negative and positive contributing factors, see the presentation, “[Making Effective Changes in Antibiotic Decision Making](https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/acute-care/safety/changes.html).”

1. **Identify the antibiotic-associated adverse event.**
2. **Identify the negative and positive factors associated with the adverse event.**

Mark if each factor was a negative contributing factor or a positive contributing factor. Negative contributing factors are those that harmed or increased the risk of harm for the patient. You want to change these. Positive contributing factors are those that limit the impact of harm. You want to keep (and reinforce) these. It may be reasonable to enter “N/A” for some categories.

| **Adverse Event** | **Negative Factor** | **Positive Factor** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient Factors** (related to clinical or emotional condition of the patient or family) |  |  |  |
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| **Technical Factors**(related to stewardship resources including information technology resources) |  |  |  |
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| **Health Care Worker Factors** (related to individual members of the health care team) |  |  |  |
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| **Team****Factors**(related to communication and teamwork) |  |  |  |
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| **Institutional Factors**(related to institution culture and resources) |  |  |  |
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1. **Focus on 3–5 of the negative contributing factors from above and discuss how you will prevent these factors from occurring again.**

| **Contributing Factor** | **Intervention** | **Person(s) Assigned To Lead Efforts** | **Followup Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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1. **Describe plans to measure the impact of the interventions.**

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