

Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship

The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship are principles for providers and facilities to improve antibiotic use. Each core element can be implemented with support and a variety of methods to guide antibiotic stewardship in all settings. Each setting is presented with unique challenges, but the standards and guidelines of several health care organizations will be catalysts to improve patient safety and outcomes.



Leadership Commitment

Resources and support are essential to the success of antibiotic stewardship programs. Leadership can provide support by allowing time for interventions, providing resources, meeting regularly, appointing a "champion", and receiving reports about stewardship activities and outcomes.

Accountability

It is critical for antibiotic stewardship programs to have leadership role(s) at the forefront accountable for management and outcomes.

Pharmacy Expertise

Highly effective antibiotic stewardship programs have empowered pharmacists who implement methods to improve the use of antibiotics across the facility.

Action

Two intervention methods have been proven to be effective: Prospective Audit and Feedback, and Preauthorization. The first is an assessment that provides recommendations about antibiotic use tailored to each patient, and the latter involves requiring prescribers to gain approval from antibiotic use experts before recommending the use certain antibiotics.

Tracking

Measuring and tracking data helps drive improvement and assess the impact of interventions. Evaluating policies, guidelines, and interventions is critical to improving patient outcomes.

Reporting

Reporting involves providing consistent updates to prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and leadership about antibiotic use and resistance.

Education

There are several national resources to educate staff about antibiotic resistance and optimizing use.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Florida Department of Health's Health Care-Associated Infection Prevention Program at: HAI_Program@flhealth.gov