

Checklist for Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship

Outpatient clinicians and health care facilities can take steps to implement antibiotic stewardship activities. Use this checklist as a baseline assessment of policies and practices which are in place. Then use the checklist to review progress in expanding stewardship activities on a regular basis (e.g., annually).

Commitment

1. Can your facility demonstrate dedication to and accountability for optimizing antibiotic prescribing and patient safety related to antibiotics?

Yes No

If yes, indicate which of the following are in place (select all that apply):

- Write and display public commitments in support of antibiotic stewardship.
- Identify a single leader to direct antibiotic stewardship activities within a facility.
- Include antibiotic stewardship-related duties in position descriptions or job evaluation criteria.
- Communicate with all clinic staff to set patient expectations.

Action

2. Has your facility implemented at least one policy or practice to improve antibiotic prescribing?

Yes No

If yes, indicate which of the following are in place (select all that apply):

- Use evidence-based diagnostic criteria and treatment recommendations.
- Use delayed prescribing practices or watchful waiting, when appropriate.
- Provide communications skills training for clinicians.
- Require explicit written justification in the medical record for non-recommended antibiotic prescribing.
- Provide support for clinical decisions.
- Use call centers, nurse hotlines, or pharmacist consultations as triage systems to prevent unnecessary visits.

Tracking and Reporting

3. Does your facility monitor at least one aspect of antibiotic prescribing?

- Yes No

If yes, indicate which of the following are in place (select all that apply):

- Self-evaluate antibiotic prescribing practices. (This intervention only applies to solo practitioners or practices with fewer than 5 clinicians as long as all clinicians participate.)
- Participate in continuing medical education and quality improvement activities to track and improve antibiotic prescribing. (This intervention only applies if all clinicians in the practice participate in the activity.)
- Track and report antibiotic prescribing for one or more high priority conditions.
- Track and report the percentage of all visits leading to antibiotic prescriptions.
- (If already tracking and reporting one of the above) Track and report, at the level of a health care system, complications of antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance trends among common outpatient bacterial pathogens.
- Assess and share performance on quality measures and established reduction goals addressing appropriate antibiotic prescribing from health care plans and payers.

Education and Expertise

4. Does your facility provide resources to clinicians and patients on evidence-based antibiotic prescribing?

- Yes No

If yes, indicate how your facility provides antibiotic stewardship education to patients (select all that apply):

- Use effective communications strategies to educate patients about when antibiotics are and are not needed.
- Educate about the potential harms of antibiotic treatment.
- Provide patient education materials.

If yes, indicate how your facility provides antibiotic stewardship education to clinicians (select all that apply):

- Provide face-to-face educational training (academic detailing).
- Provide continuing education activities for clinicians.
- Ensure timely access to persons with expertise.