SCENARIO
You are reviewing an order for amoxicillin and no indication is documented in the resident’s medical record.

Consultant pharmacists can help ensure documentation of antibiotic indications by:

1. Alerting the healthcare professional that the antibiotic prescribed has no documented indication.

2. Discussing the clinical indication for the prescribed antibiotic with the healthcare professional and documenting the indication in the medical record.

3. Providing education for facility staff that every antibiotic order should have a documented indication for prescribing.

The scenarios and recommendations are applicable to most nursing home residents. Prior to making recommendations, always assess the individual resident, review the documentation in the medical record, discuss with facility staff, and use your clinical judgment. Follow your facility’s protocols and treatment guidelines when applicable.

References:
1. CDC’s Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes: https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/antibiotic-stewardship.html

www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use