



Antibiotic Stewardship

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**BE
ANTIBIOTICS
AWARE**
SMART USE, BEST CARE

Objectives

1. Discuss the implementation of priority examples from the **Hospital Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship**.
2. Review antibiotic stewardship implementation resources.

The Threat of Antibiotic Resistance in the United States



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

New National Estimate*

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria and fungi cause at least an estimated:

2,868,700
infections

35,900
deaths



Clostridioides difficile is related to antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance: *

223,900
cases

12,800
deaths

New Threats List

Updated urgent, serious, and concerning threats—totaling 18

5 urgent threats

2 new threats

NEW:
Watch List with **3** threats



Antibiotic resistance remains a significant One Health problem, affecting humans, animals, and the environment.

* *C. diff* cases from hospitalized patients in 2017

www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Biggest-Threats

Five core strategies to combat the threat of antibiotic resistant infections



Antibiotic use and access: ensure appropriate use and reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics, and ensure improved access to antibiotics



Infection prevention and control:
Prevent infections and reduce the spread of germs



Tracking and data: Share data and improve data collection



Environment and sanitation:
Keep antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant threats from entering the environment through actions like improving sanitation and improving access to safe water



Vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics: Invest in development and improved access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for better prevention, treatment, and detection

Antibiotic stewardship is about patient safety and delivering high-quality healthcare

**THE RIGHT ANTIBIOTIC
AT THE RIGHT DOSE
AT THE RIGHT TIME**



Antibiotic stewardship is a set of commitments and actions designed to **optimize** the treatment of infections while **reducing** the adverse events associated with antibiotic use.



The Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs: 2019



Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs



Hospital Leadership Commitment

Dedicate necessary human, financial, and information technology resources.



Accountability

Appoint a leader or co-leaders, such as a physician and pharmacist, responsible for program management and outcomes.



Pharmacy Expertise (previously “Drug Expertise”):

Appoint a pharmacist, ideally as the co-leader of the stewardship program, to help lead implementation efforts to improve antibiotic use.



Action

Implement interventions, such as prospective audit and feedback or preauthorization, to improve antibiotic use.



Tracking

Monitor antibiotic prescribing, impact of interventions, and other important outcomes, like *C. difficile* infections and resistance patterns.



Reporting

Regularly report information on antibiotic use and resistance to prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and hospital leadership.



Education

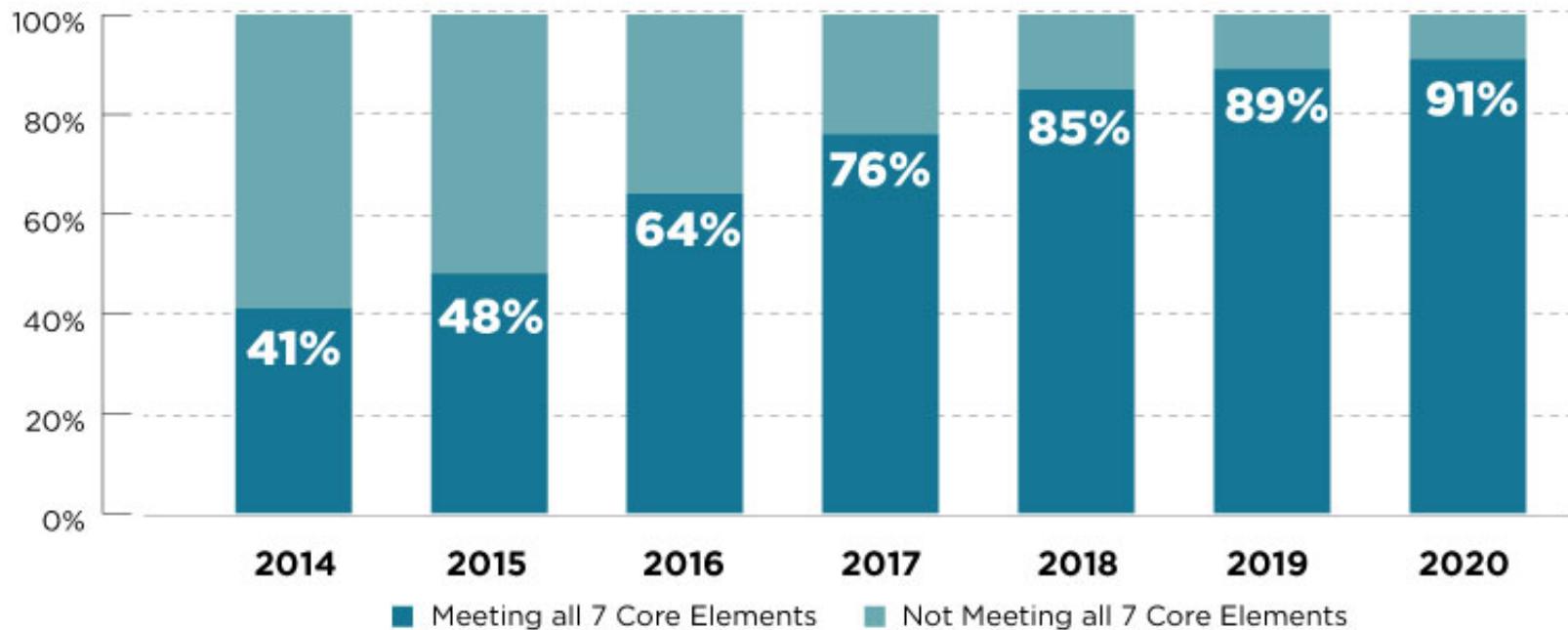
Educate prescribers, pharmacists, nurses, and patients about adverse reactions from antibiotics, antibiotic resistance, and optimal prescribing.

U.S. Hospitals Are Antibiotics Aware

SINCE 2014,
THE PERCENTAGE OF
HOSPITALS WITH
ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAMS MEETING
THE CORE ELEMENTS
MORE THAN
DOUBLED



Percentage of Hospitals Meeting ALL 7 Core Elements

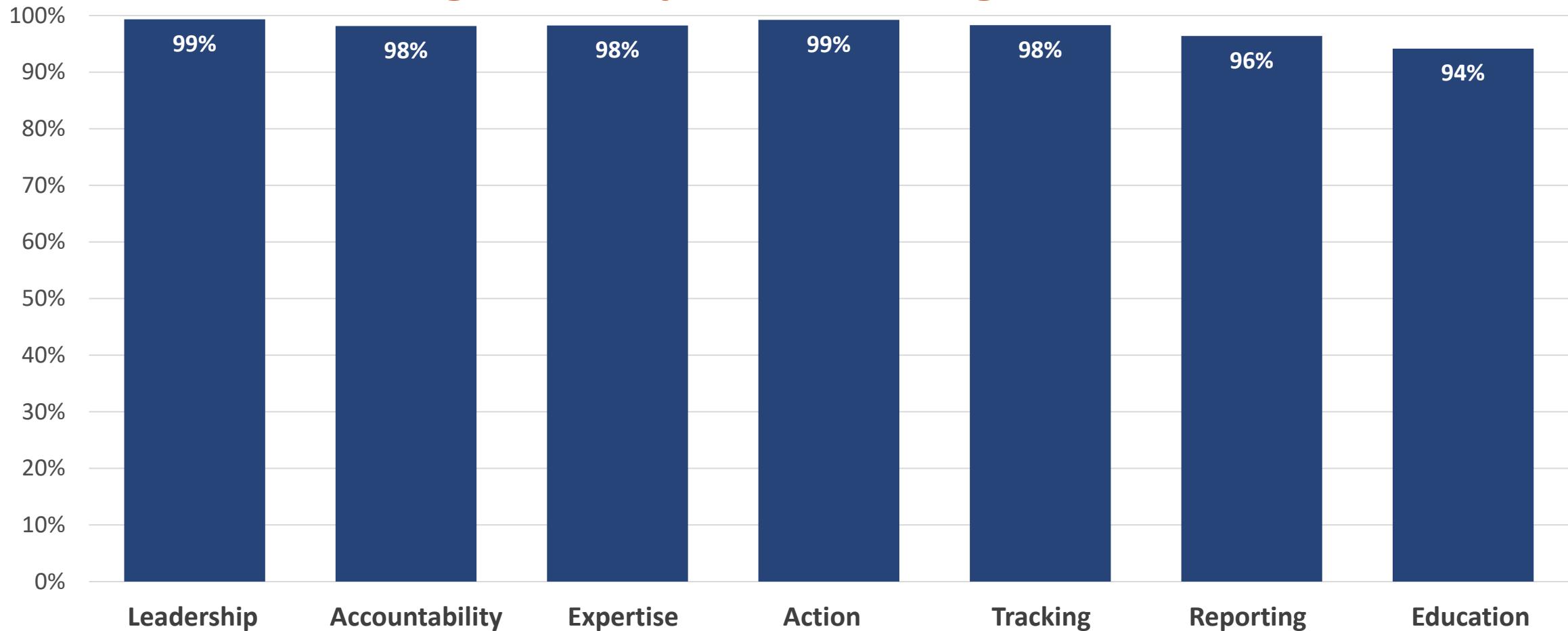


To learn more about hospital antibiotic stewardship, visit
<https://arpsp.cdc.gov/profile/stewardship>



2020 NHSN Annual Hospital Survey:

Percentage of hospitals meeting each Core Element



Priority Examples in 2019 Hospital Core Elements



Hospital Leadership Commitment

Dedicate necessary human, financial, and information technology resources.

Dedicated stewardship staffing and resources



Accountability

Appoint a leader or co-leaders, such as a physician and pharmacist, responsible for program management and outcomes.

Co-leadership model with physician and pharmacist



Action

Implement interventions, such as prospective audit and feedback or preauthorization, to improve antibiotic use.

Prospective Audit & Feedback, Preauthorization, and Facility-Specific Treatment Guidelines



Tracking

Monitor antibiotic prescribing, impact of interventions, and other important outcomes, like *C. difficile* infections and resistance patterns.

Submission to NHSN AU Option



Explore and Visualize Data on Antibiotic Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections



FEATURED ITEMS →

<https://arpsp.cdc.gov/>



Antibiotic Resistance & Patient Safety Portal

Home > Antibiotic Use & Stewardship

Antibiotic Use & Stewardship

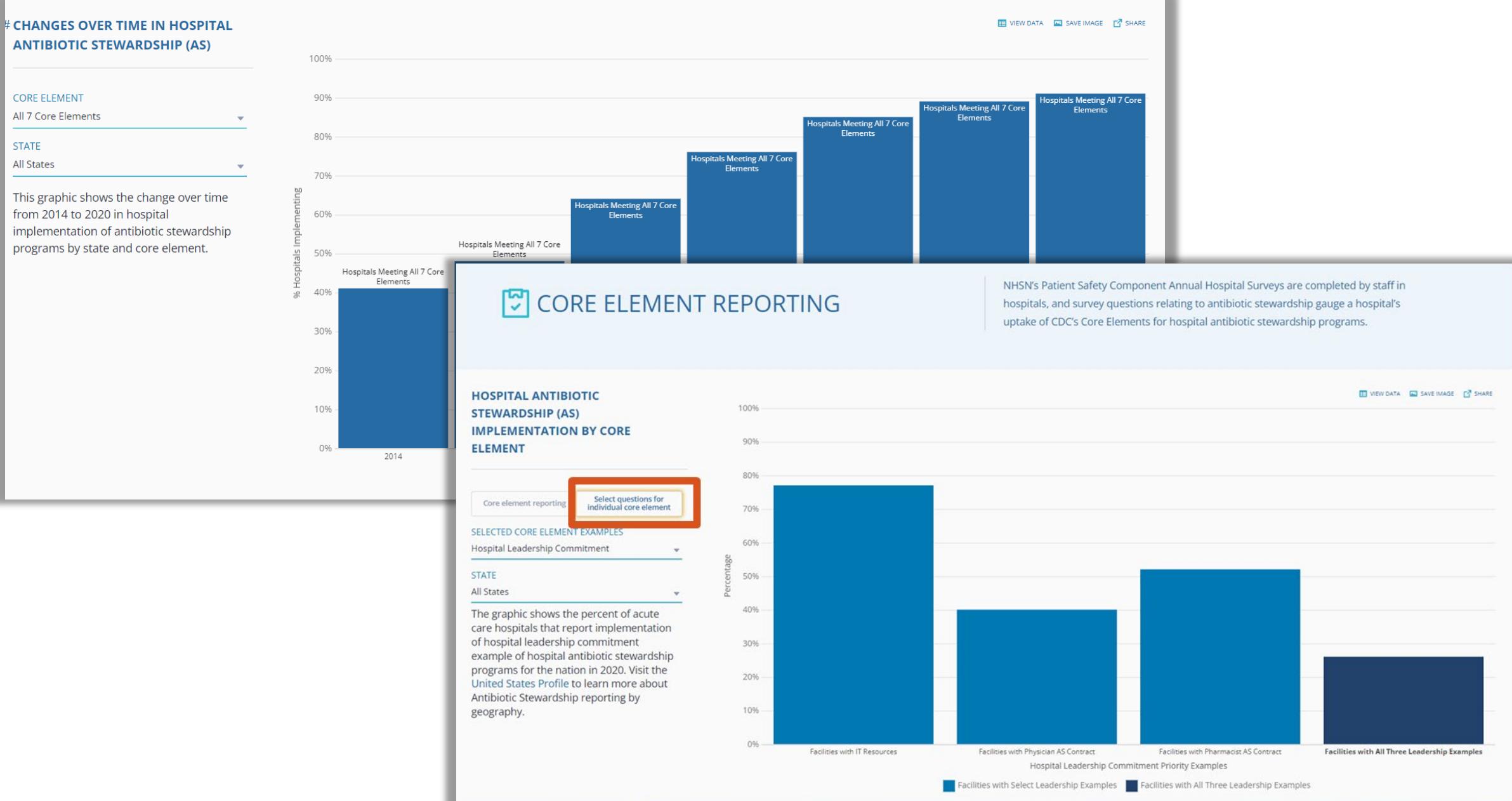
Outpatient Antibiotic Use

Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship

Hospital antibiotic stewardship is an initiative that aims to improve patient safety by promoting programs, protocols, and best practices that improve the way we manage and use antibiotics. Hospital antibiotic stewardship promotes using the right antibiotic, at the right time, at the right dose and for the right duration. Hospital antibiotic stewardship has a number of proven benefits that include: protecting patients from unintended consequences of antibiotics, improving treatment of infections, and helping combat antibiotic resistance. These data reflect programs exclusively for inpatient hospital settings.

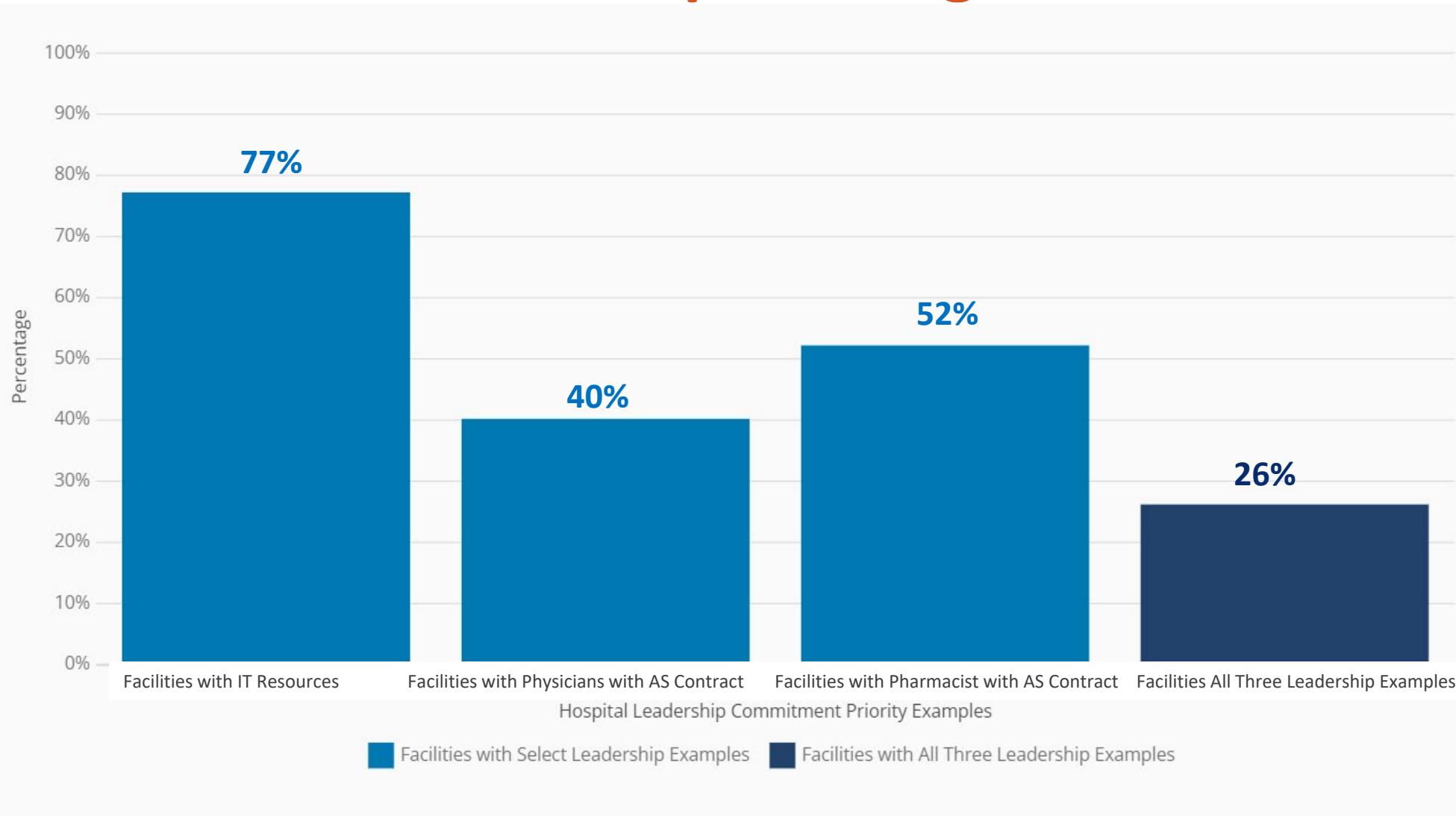
Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship

<https://arpsp.cac.gov/profile/antibiotic-use?tab=hospital-stewardship>





Hospital Leadership Commitment: Dedicated Stewardship Staffing and Resources





Hospital Leadership Commitment: Dedicated Stewardship Staffing and Resources

Core Element	NHSN Hospital Survey Questions	NHSN Hospital Survey Instructions
Hospital Leadership Commitment	<p>40b. If Physician or Co-led is selected, which of the following describes your antibiotic stewardship physician leader?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has antibiotic stewardship responsibilities in their contract or job description</p>	Select 'Has antibiotic stewardship responsibilities in their contract or job description' if the physician stewardship leader has stewardship responsibilities stated in their contract or job description. This can be evidenced by the physician stewardship leader receiving salary support (any amount) for stewardship activities or being assessed on stewardship involvement during performance review .
	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>
	<p>40e. If Pharmacist or Co-led is selected, which of the following describes your antibiotic stewardship pharmacist leader?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has antibiotic stewardship responsibilities in their contract or job description</p>	Select 'Has antibiotic stewardship responsibilities in their contract or job description' if the pharmacist stewardship leader has stewardship responsibilities stated in their contract or job description. This can be evidenced by the pharmacist stewardship leader receiving salary support (any amount) for stewardship activities or being assessed on stewardship involvement during performance review .



Accountability: Co-leadership Model with Physician and Pharmacist

CORE ELEMENT REPORTING

NHSN's Patient Safety Component Annual Hospital Surveys are completed by staff in hospitals, and survey questions relating to antibiotic stewardship gauge a hospital's uptake of CDC's Core Elements for hospital antibiotic stewardship programs.

HOSPITAL ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP (AS) IMPLEMENTATION BY CORE ELEMENT

Core element reporting Select questions for individual core element

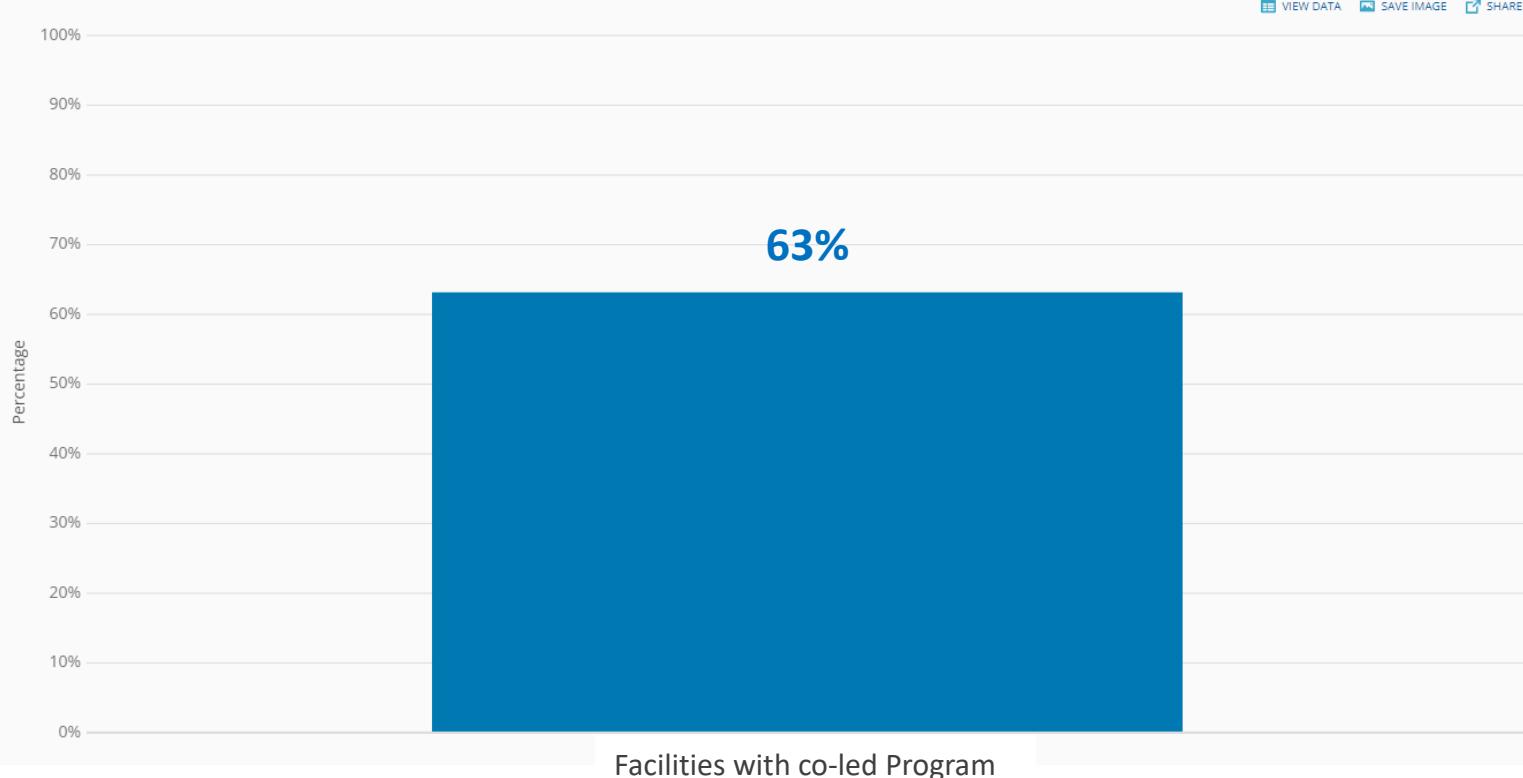
SELECTED CORE ELEMENT EXAMPLES

Accountability

STATE

All States

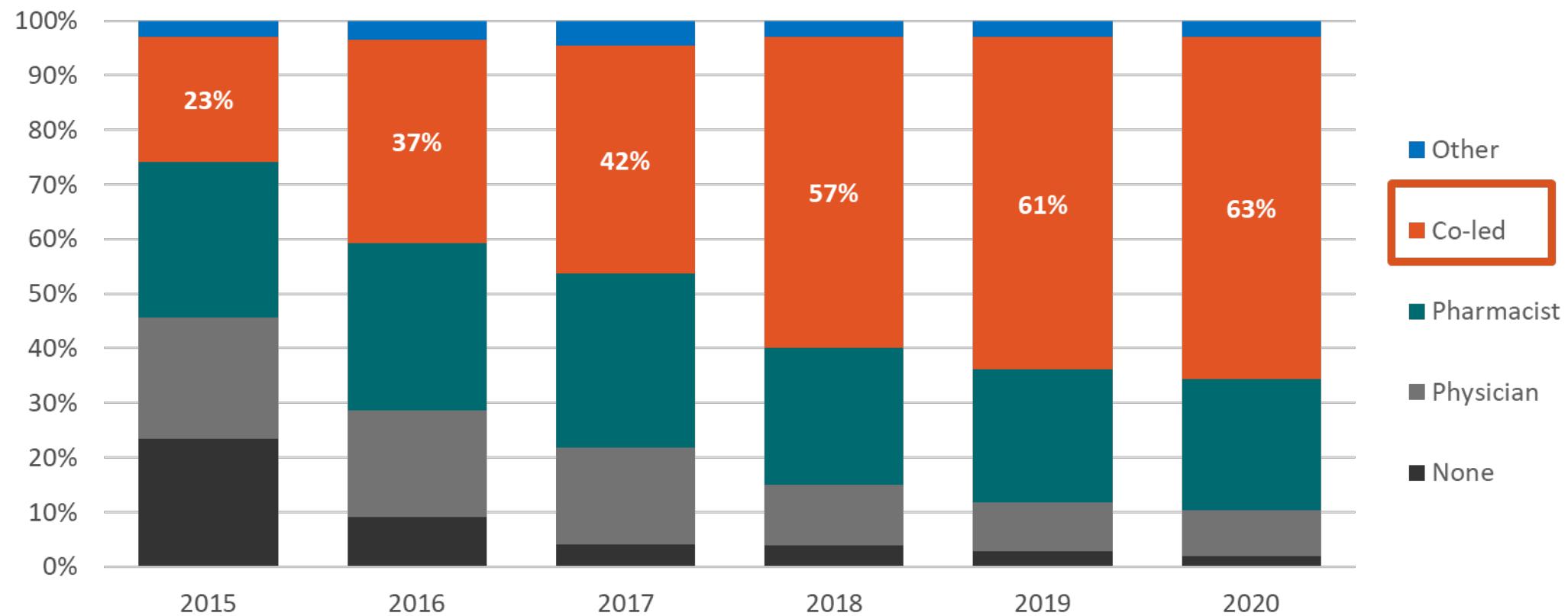
The graphic shows the percent of acute care hospitals that report implementation of accountability example of hospital antibiotic stewardship programs for the nation in 2020. Visit the [United States Profile](#) to learn more about Antibiotic Stewardship reporting by geography.





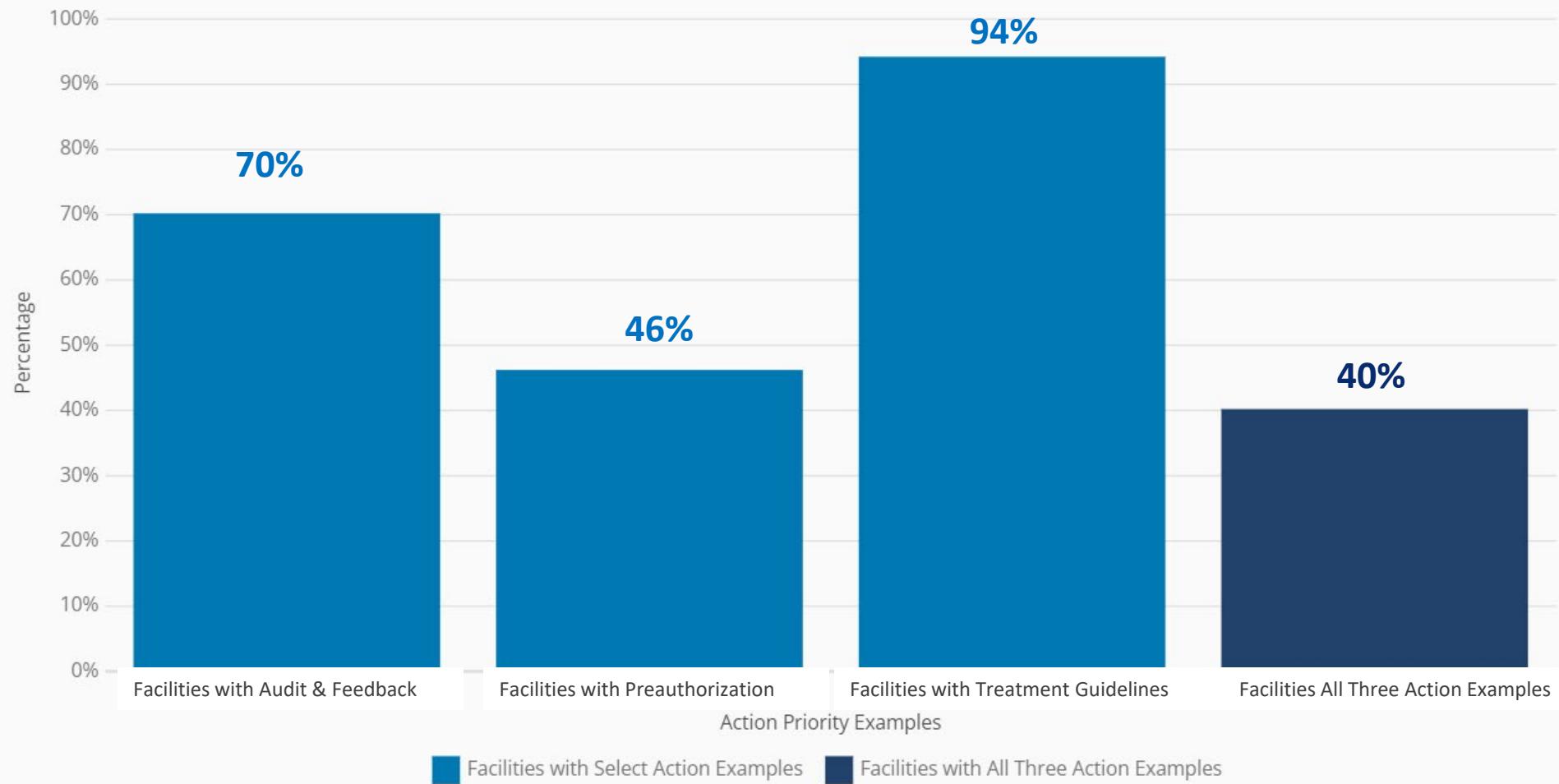
Accountability: Co-leadership Model with Physician and Pharmacist

- Co-led ASPs are becoming more common: **23%** in 2015 vs. **63%** in 2020

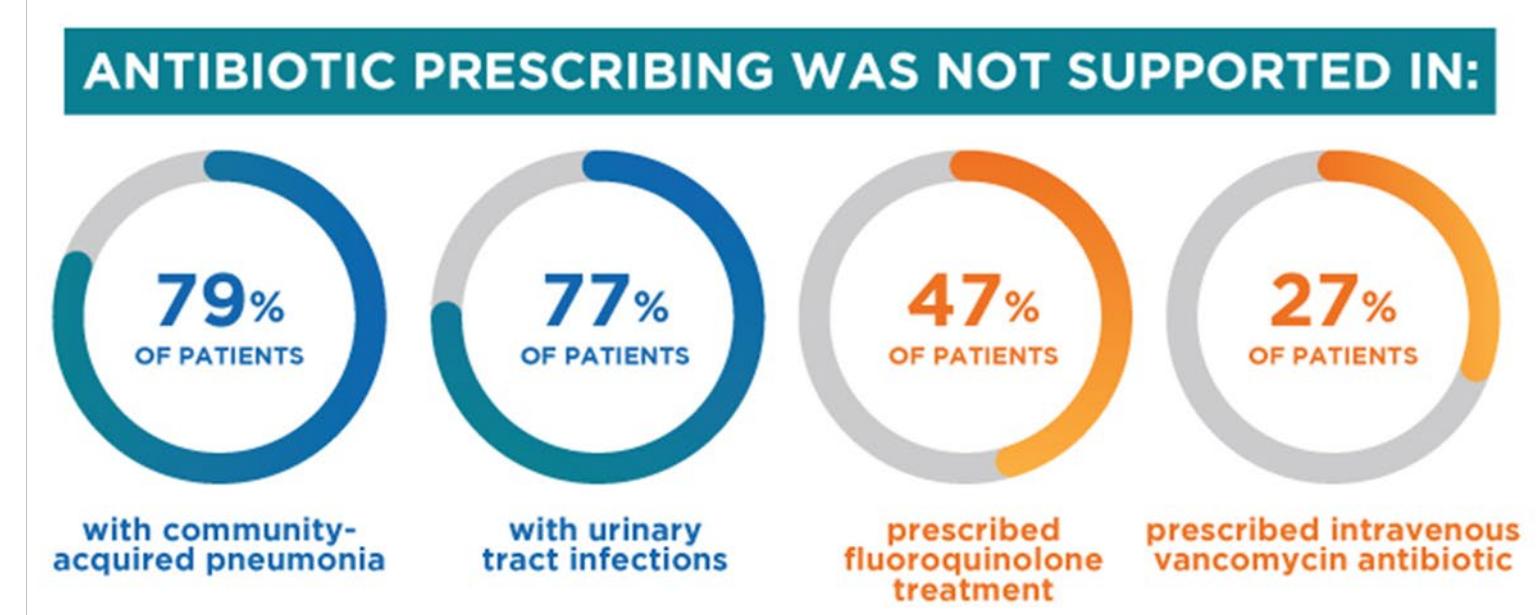
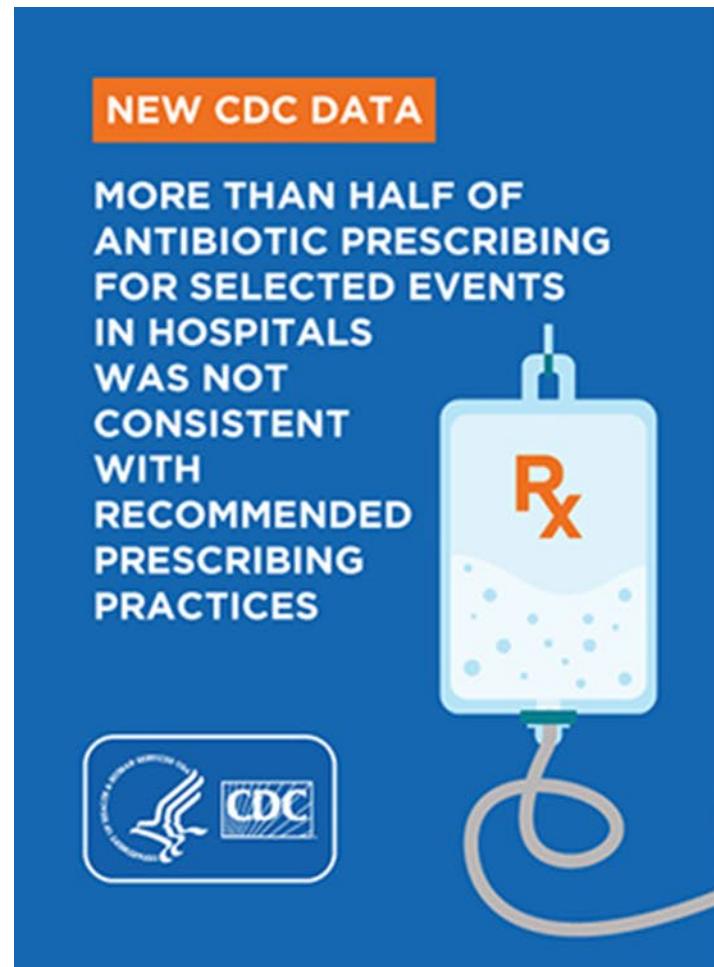




Action: Prospective Audit & Feedback, Preauthorization, and Facility-Specific Treatment Guidelines



Many opportunities to optimize antibiotic prescribing



Key opportunities to improve antibiotic use in hospitals

INFECTIONS	DIAGNOSTIC CONSIDERATIONS	EMPIRIC THERAPY	DEFINITIVE THERAPY
Community-acquired pneumonia ^[54]	Review cases after initiation of therapy to confirm pneumonia diagnosis versus non-infectious etiology.	Avoid empiric use of antipseudomonal beta-lactams and/or MRSA agents unless clinically indicated.	Guidelines suggest that in adults, most cases of uncomplicated pneumonia can be treated for 5 days when a patient has a timely clinical response ^[55, 56] . Data also suggest that negative results of MRSA nasal colonization testing can help guide decisions to discontinue empiric therapy for MRSA pneumonia ^[57] .
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	Implement criteria for ordering urine cultures to ensure that positive cultures are more likely to represent infection than bladder colonization ^[58] .	Establish criteria to distinguish between asymptomatic and symptomatic bacteruria. Avoid antibiotic therapy for	Use the shortest duration of antibiotic therapy that is clinically appropriate.
Skin and soft tissue infection	Develop diagnostic criteria to distinguish purulent and non-purulent infections and severity of illness (i.e., mild, moderate and severe) so that skin and soft tissue infections can be managed appropriately according to guidelines.	Avoid empiric use of antipseudomonal beta-lactams and/or anti-anerobic agents unless clinically indicated. Use of therapy specific for MRSA may not be necessary in uncomplicated non-purulent cellulitis ^[59] .	Guidelines suggest that most cases of uncomplicated bacterial cellulitis can be treated for 5 days if the patient has a timely clinical response ^[55] .



Tracking: Submission to NHSN AU Option



CORE ELEMENT REPORTING

NHSN's Patient Safety Component Annual Hospital Surveys are completed by staff in hospitals, and survey questions relating to antibiotic stewardship gauge a hospital's uptake of CDC's Core Elements for hospital antibiotic stewardship programs.

HOSPITAL ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP (AS) IMPLEMENTATION BY CORE ELEMENT

Core element reporting Select questions for individual core element

SELECTED CORE ELEMENT EXAMPLES

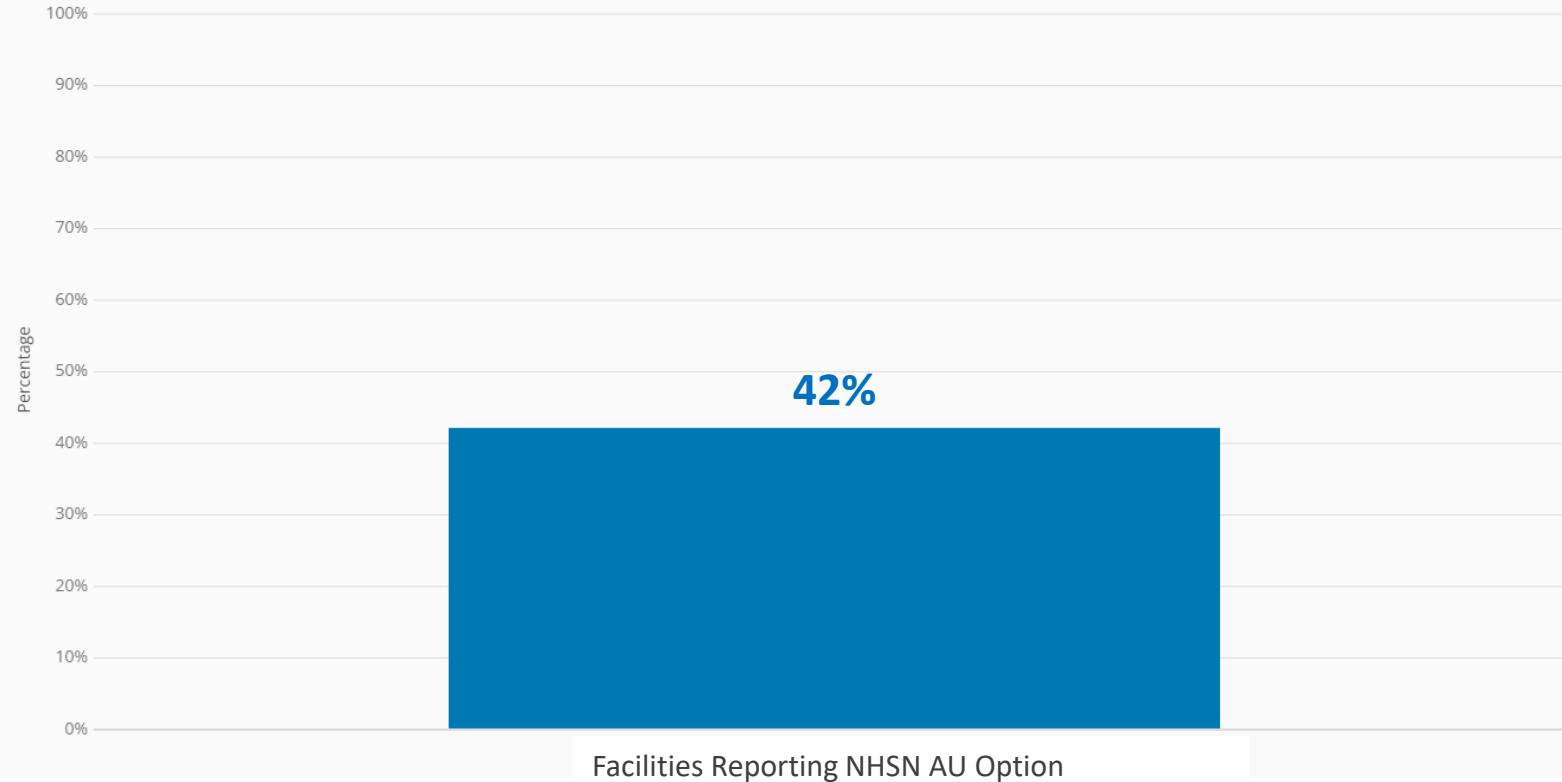
Tracking ▾

STATE

All States ▾

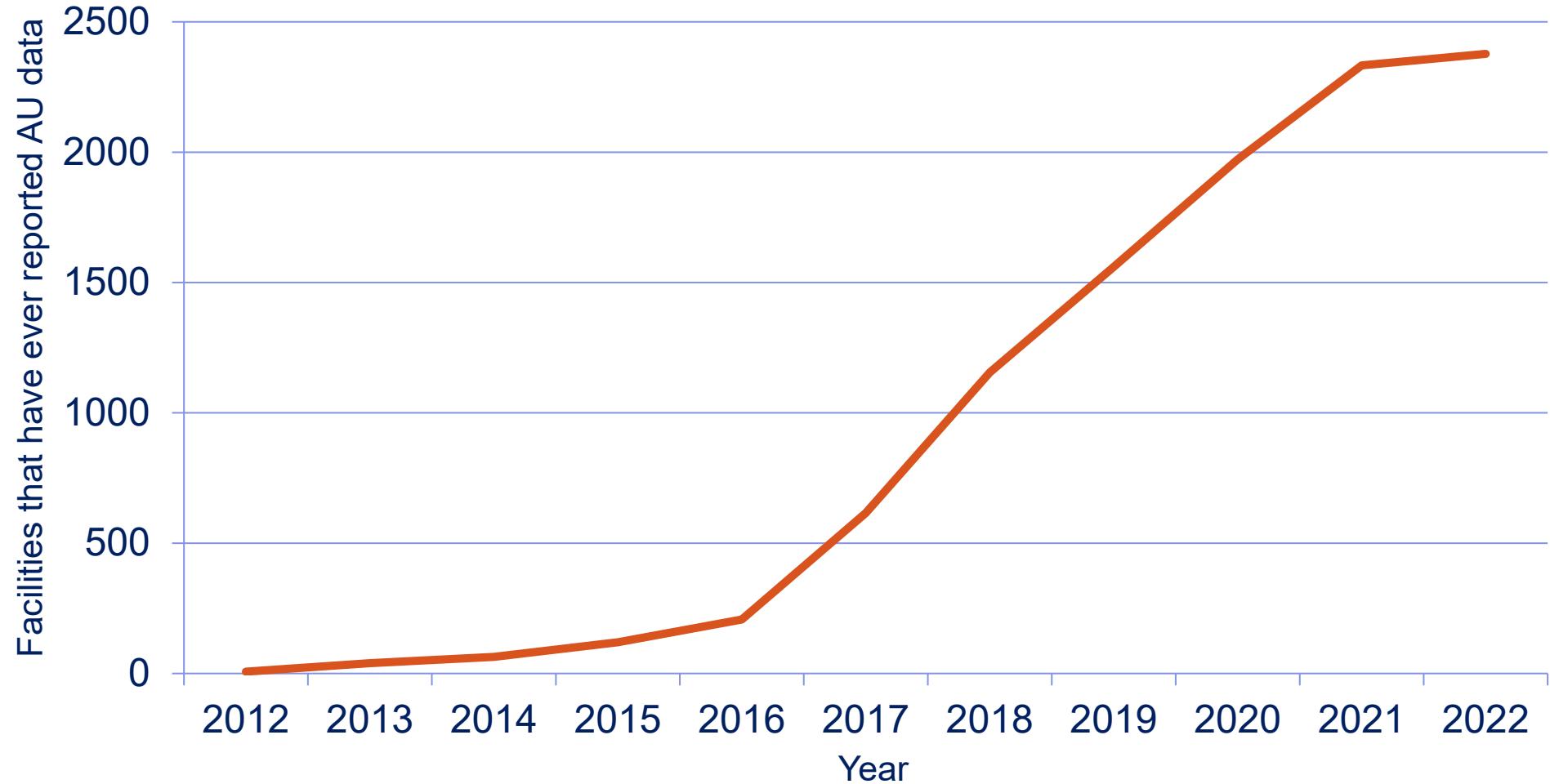
The graphic shows the percent of acute care hospitals that report implementation of tracking example to the NHSN Antimicrobial Use (AU) Option of hospital antibiotic stewardship programs for the nation in 2020. Visit the [United States Profile](#) to learn more about Antibiotic Stewardship reporting by geography.

VIEW DATA SAVE IMAGE SHARE



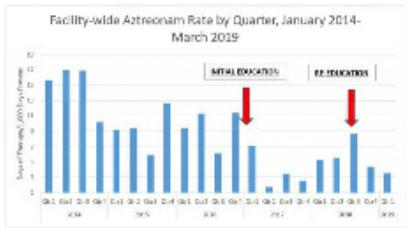


Tracking: Yearly AU Option Data Submission*



*As of March 1, 2022

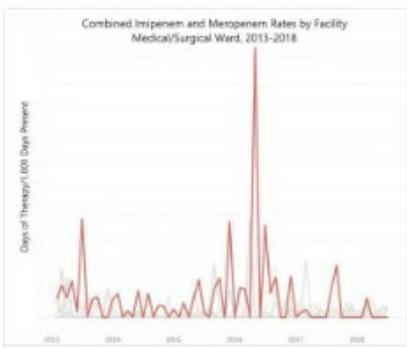
AU Option Case Examples



Decreasing Aztreonam Use in a Veterans Affairs Hospital

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center has submitted data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Antimicrobial Use (AU) Option since January 2013. In response to high aztreonam use, the facility developed training and educational materials to evaluate the risk of an adverse reaction from beta-lactam administration in a patient whose recorded medical history included a penicillin allergy. [Read More](#).

Posted On: June 18, 2019



Using Telehealth to Decrease Carbapenem Use in a Critical Access Hospital

Using NHSN Antimicrobial Use (AU) Option data submitted from 2013-2018, Intermountain Healthcare system compared carbapenem use among its facilities and identified an outlier. After meeting with the local stewardship physician and pharmacist champions, an active prospective audit and feedback approach was initiated using telehealth. [Read More](#).

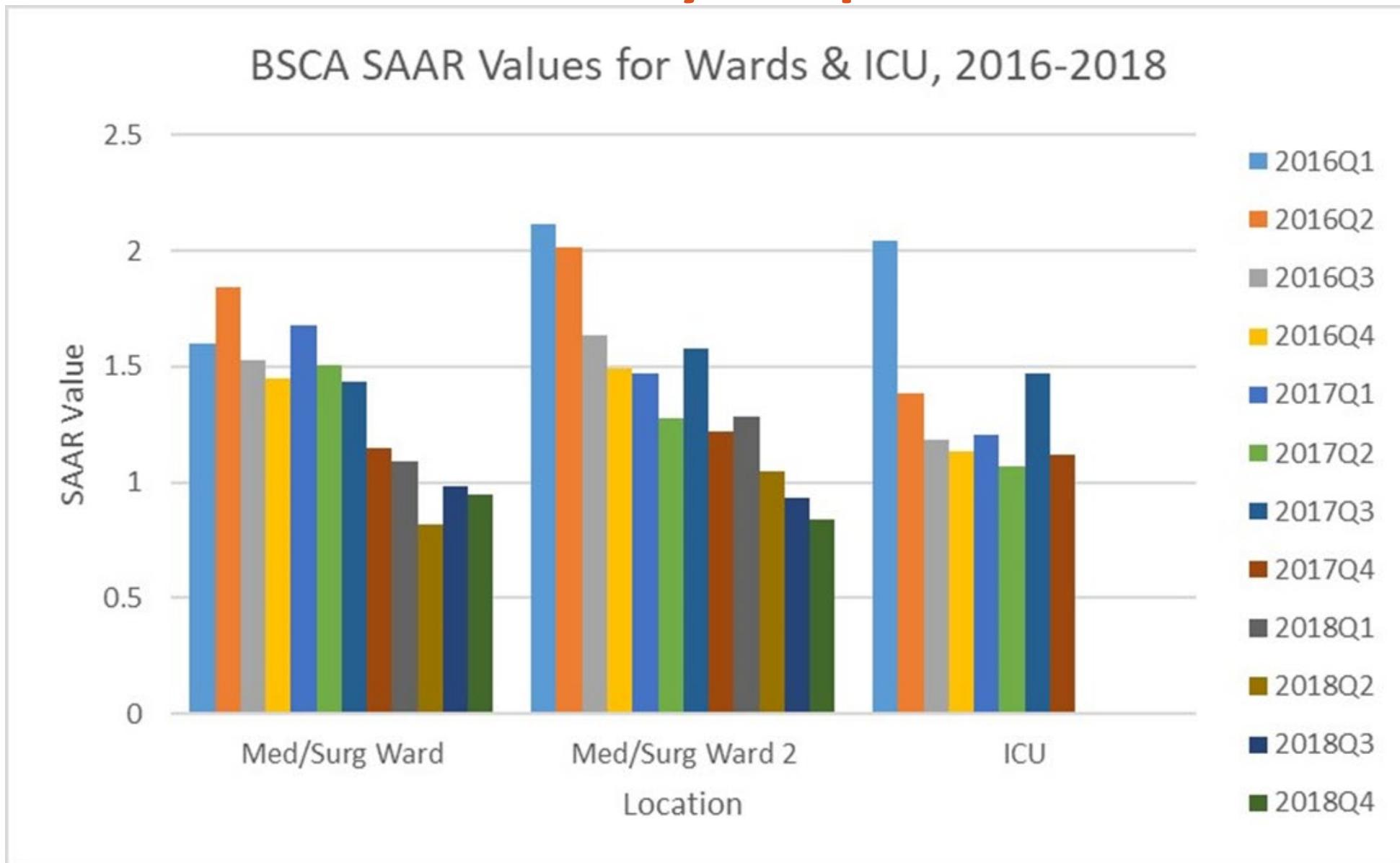
Posted On: April 16, 2019



Targeting a Reduction in Fluoroquinolone Use within a Community Hospital

Submitting data into the NHSN Antimicrobial Use (AU Option) since 2016, Wilson Medical Center, a community hospital in North Carolina, used AU Option data to identify an area

Targeting a Reduction in Fluoroquinolone Use within a Community Hospital



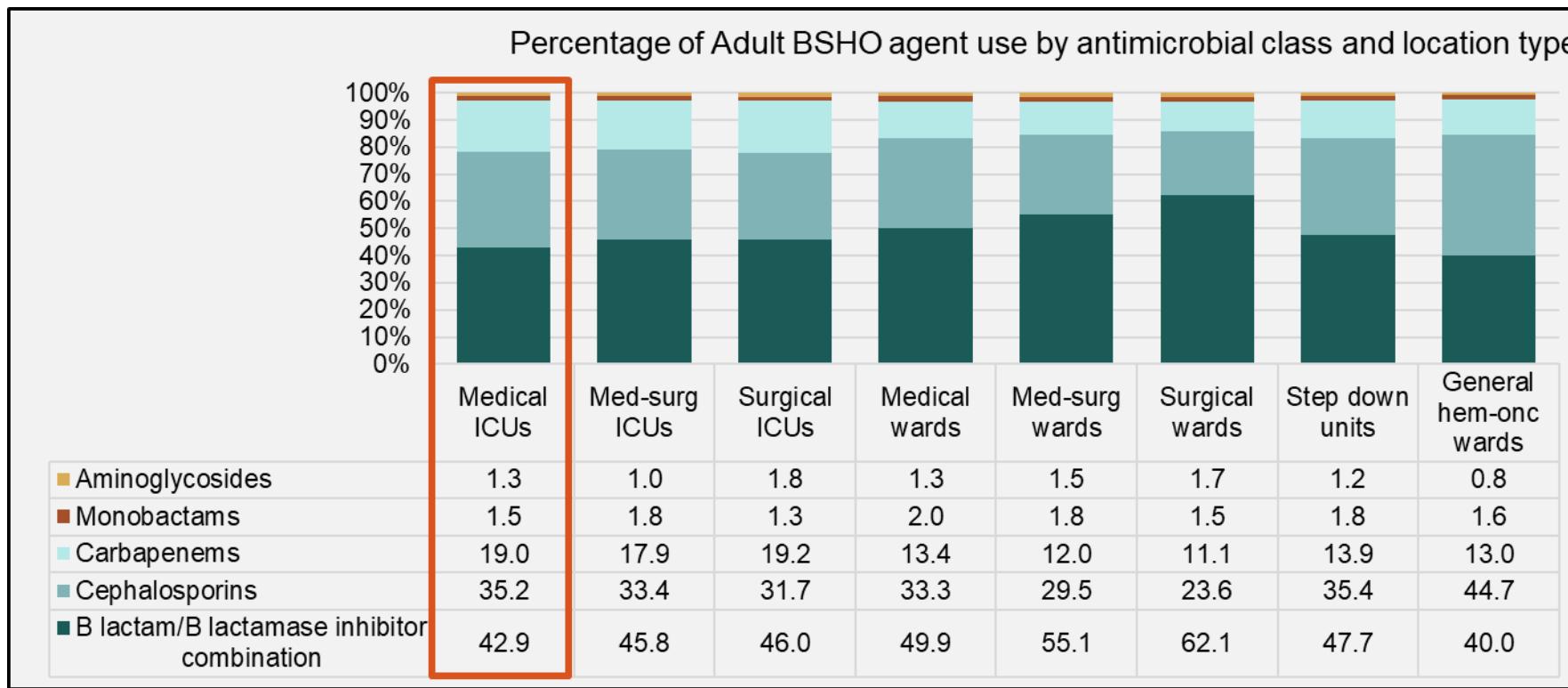
2020 NHSN AU Option Data Report

- Summary of SAAR distributions and percentages of use within SAAR antimicrobial agent categories in adult, pediatric, and neonatal patient care locations



[2020 Antimicrobial Use Option Data Report – November 2021](#)  [PDF – 13 pgs]

[2020 Antimicrobial Use Option Report Data Tables – November 2021](#)  [XLS – 331 KB]



Adult SAAR location type (n) ¹	Antimicrobial ²	Antimicrobial Class	Antimicrobial Subclass	Pooled antimicrobial days	Percentage of antimicrobial days
Medical ICUs (n=366)	Piperacillin/Tazobactam	B-lactam/B-lactamase inhibitor combination		263,107	42.9
	Cefepime	Cephalosporins	Cephalosporin 4th generation	209,269	34.2
	Meropenem	Carbapenems		115,601	18.9
	Aztreonam (IV)	Monobactams		9,162	1.5
	Ceftazidime	Cephalosporins	Cephalosporin 3rd generation	6,509	1.1
	Gentamicin (IV)	Aminoglycosides		3,103	0.5
	Tobramycin (IV)	Aminoglycosides		2,842	0.5
	Amikacin (IV)	Aminoglycosides		2,007	0.3
	Imipenem/Cilastatin	Carbapenems		1,078	0.2
	Doripenem	Carbapenems		0	0.0

Best practices for using AU data for action

- Submit monthly hospital AU data to the NHSN AU Option to guide tracking and reporting for ASPs.
- Review NHSN AU data at least quarterly to track SAAR/AU data over time to both inform and assess stewardship interventions.
- Report SAAR/AU data on a regular basis to senior leadership, hospital board, hospital committees and providers.
- Establish facility-specific SAAR target goals for quality improvement.
- Create and/or participate in the NHSN AU Option Group Function as part of a healthcare system, health department and/or collaborative.



Antibiotic Prescribing and Use

CDC > Antibiotic Use > Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship > Hospital



Antibiotic Use

About Antibiotic Use

Patient Resources and Education

Healthcare Professional Resources and Training

Health Department Resources

Improving Antibiotic Use

Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship

Hospital

Implementation Resources for Hospitals

Outpatient

Nursing Home

Small and Critical Access Hospitals

Implementation Resources for Hospitals

Pharmacy Expertise

- [5 Ways Hospital Pharmacists can Be Antibiotics Aware](#)

Action

- [Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#) [PDF - 27 pages]
- [Urine Culture Stewardship in Hospitalized Patients](#)
- [NEW Healthcare Professionals: Be Antibiotic Aware – At Hospital Discharge \(Print Only\)](#) [PDF - 1 page]
- [NEW Antimicrobial Stewardship Transition of Care \(Henry Ford Health System\)](#)
- [Toolkit to Enhance Nursing and Antibiotic Stewardship Partnership \(The Johns Hopkins Hospital Department of Antimicrobial Stewardship\)](#)
- [Redefining the Antibiotic Stewardship Team: Recommendations from the American Nurses Association/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Workgroup on the Role of Registered Nurses in Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Practices](#) [PDF - 14 pages]
- [AHRQ Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use](#)

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[Action](#)

[Tracking and Reporting](#)

[Education](#)

[More Resources](#)

Optimizing duration of antibiotic therapy



HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS:
BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE
Use the Shortest
Effective Antibiotic
Duration



SCENARIO

You are performing medication reconciliation and reviewing discharge antibiotic orders for a patient.

Antibiotic stewardship programs are targeting interventions to reduce unnecessarily long durations of antibiotic treatment. In adult patients who have a timely clinical response, guidelines suggest the following durations for uncomplicated cases of these infections:

- **Community-Acquired Pneumonia:** Five days¹
- **Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia:** Seven days²
- **Non-purulent Cellulitis:** Five days³

Pharmacists can help optimize antibiotic duration by:



1. Adding the total number of days of uninterrupted inpatient antibiotic therapy to planned post-discharge antibiotic duration.



2. Alerting the provider if the total duration of inpatient and post-discharge antibiotic therapy exceeds the recommended duration according to treatment guidelines.



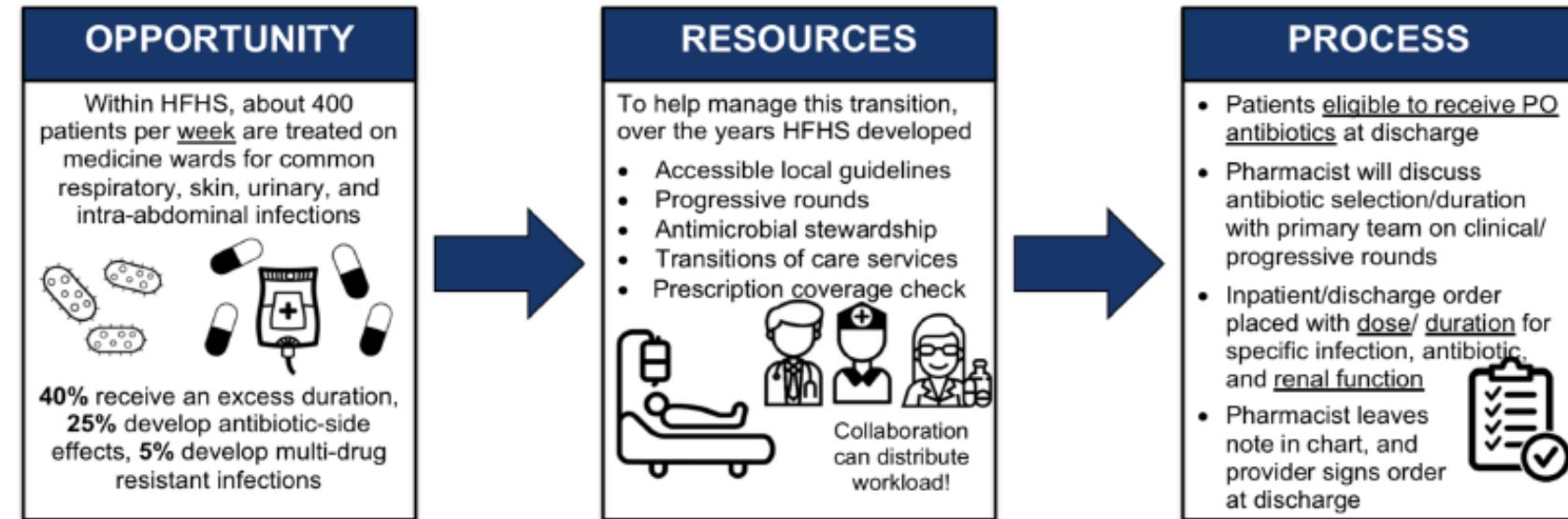
3. Discussing optimizing the duration of post-discharge antibiotic therapy with the provider if the patient had an uncomplicated clinical course and has responded appropriately to treatment.

The scenarios and recommendations discussed are applicable to most immunocompetent adult patients. Prior to making interventions, always assess the individual patient and use your clinical judgment. Follow your institution's treatment guidelines when applicable.

Pre-Intervention Handout for Physicians and Nurses

Antimicrobial Stewardship Transitions of Care Overview

Improving antibiotic use
at **hospital discharge**
through a pharmacist-led
transition-of-care
intervention



Included	Excluded	What to expect:
Respiratory tract: <ul style="list-style-type: none">CAPHAPAcute COPD exacerbationInfluenza Urinary tract: <ul style="list-style-type: none">CystitisComplicated UTIPyelonephritis Skin/soft tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none">CellulitisCutaneous abscess Intra-abdominal <ul style="list-style-type: none">SBPComplicated peritonitis w/ adequate source control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Solid organ transplant/ neutropeniaOPAT patientsAge <18 yearsEndocarditis/endovascular infectionsBone/joint infectionMeningitisBacteremia due to: <i>S. aureus</i>, <i>Enterococci</i>, fungiNecrotizing fasciitisAbscess/fluid collection without removal of fociProstatitisPneumocystis pneumoniaMycobacterial infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pharmacist will routinely conduct surveillance on patients expected to be discharged on oral antibiotics: anticipate questions regarding discharge statusWhen the plan for oral antibiotics has been determined with the team, a note will be placed in the chart for selection and duration based on patient-specific attributesThe pharmacists' Transitions of Care note can be used for patient education and to communicate where the medication will be sent

Go Live Date for Your Unit: _____

Contact for questions: _____



Improving antibiotic use at hospital discharge

**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS:
BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE**

At Hospital Discharge

- 1 Use the most targeted and safe antibiotic^{1,2}**
 - If a penicillin allergy is listed in the medical record, determine whether the patient is truly allergic.
 - If the patient is to be discharged on a fluoroquinolone, consider a safer alternative when appropriate.
 - If planning outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy, consider review by the antibiotic stewardship program or infectious disease consultation service.
- 2 Use the shortest effective antibiotic duration^{1,3,4}**
 - Account for inpatient antibiotic days when considering the duration of a post-discharge prescription.
 - Examples of total treatment duration for common infections:
 - Community-acquired pneumonia: 5 days⁵
 - Hospital-acquired pneumonia: 7 days⁶
 - Non-purulent cellulitis: 5 days⁷
- 3 Document and communicate a structured and timely discharge summary⁸**

Information communicated across transitions of care may include:

 - Diagnosis and treatment plan
 - Antibiotic therapy
 - List inpatient antibiotic(s) and total number of days received in the hospital.
 - Specify if antibiotic therapy was completed in the hospital or if continued therapy post-discharge is needed.
 - For a post-discharge prescription, list the planned antibiotic, dose, and end date.
 - Results of relevant diagnostic tests (including pending tests)
 - Instructions for follow-up medical care, including contact information for additional questions
- 4 Educate patients and caregivers¹**
 - Indication and planned antibiotic course
 - Instructions for follow-up medical care
 - Signs and symptoms of worsening infection, and sepsis.
 - Signs and symptoms of antibiotic-associated adverse events, including *Clostridium difficile* infection

This document is meant to provide general guidance and does not apply to all clinical scenarios. Always assess the individual patient; use your clinical judgment, and follow your institution's treatment guidelines and protocols when applicable.

REFERENCES

- 1. CDC's core elements of hospital antibiotic stewardship program. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/core-elements/hospital.html>.
- 2. Monitoring antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance. <https://www.cdc.gov/drug-resistance/drug-safety-and-efficacy/monitoring/antibiotic-use.html>.
- 3. Henry Ford Health System: antibiotic stewardship at transition of care. <https://www.henryford.com/hipac/academic.aspx>.
- 4. Michigan hospital antibiotic safety consortium. DASH A&E antibiotic audit and education. <https://www.michiganhospital.org/sites/default/files/dischargechecklist.pdf>.
- 5. Hertig JH, et al. Crit Care Med. 2010;38(2):471-477.
- 6. Hall AJ, et al. Infect Dis. 2016;38(3):361-371.
- 7. Stevens DL, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2012;54(10):1492-1493.
- 8. Urechko L, et al. Ann Emerg Med. 2022;79(3):328-329.

Engaging front-line nurses in stewardship activities



Department of Antimicrobial Stewardship

[Department of Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

> [Toolkit to Enhance Partnership Between Nursing and the Antibiotic Stewardship Program](#)

Toolkit to Enhance Nursing and Antibiotic Stewardship Partnership



Despite discussions at the national level about the need to integrate nurses into antibiotic stewardship (AS) activities, there are limited tools and resources for Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs, nursing and/or hospital leadership to facilitate implementation of nurse-based AS interventions in acute care hospitals.

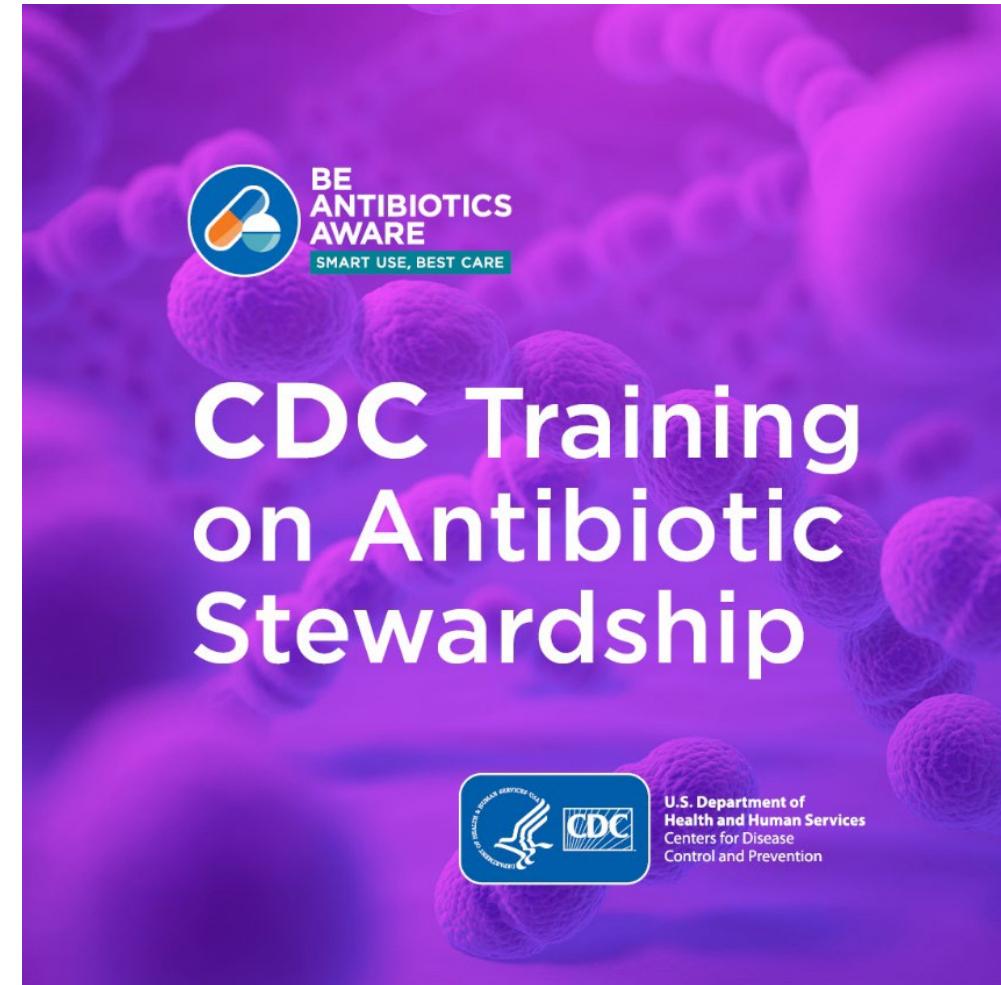
This **toolkit and comprehensive user guide** aims to bridge the gap, and provides materials and resources to: (a) engage front-line nurses in AS, (b) obtain leadership support to implement nurse-driven AS activities, and (c) implement a nurse-driven diagnostic stewardship intervention to improve urine and respiratory culturing practices and a penicillin allergy algorithm to improve



CDC training with over 10 hours of free CE credits on antibiotic stewardship

Course include educational content on:

- Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States
- Benefits of antibiotic stewardship
- Risks and benefits of antibiotics
- Epidemiology of outpatient antibiotic use in the U.S. and opportunities for improvement
- Communication training for clinicians to improve outpatient antibiotic prescribing and use
- Antibiotic stewardship considerations for the management of common outpatient conditions
- Antibiotic stewardship in the outpatient setting, dentistry, emergency departments, hospitals, and nursing homes



https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3697

Take Home Messages

- Antibiotic stewardship is important for patient safety.
- There are many opportunities to improve antibiotic use in hospitals.
- Tracking and reporting of antibiotic use is critical to identify, implement and assess stewardship interventions.

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

