Antibiotic Stewardship

Antibiotic resistance is among the greatest public health threats today, leading to an estimated 2 million infections and 23,000 deaths per year in the United States. Although antibiotics are life-saving drugs that are critical to modern medicine, infections with pathogens resistant to first-line antibiotics can require treatment with alternative antibiotics that can be expensive and toxic. The most important modifiable risk factor for antibiotic resistance is inappropriate prescribing of antibiotics. Approximately half of outpatient antibiotic prescribing in humans might be inappropriate, including antibiotic selection, dosing, or duration, in addition to unnecessary antibiotic prescribing. At least 30% of outpatient antibiotic prescriptions in the United States are unnecessary.

The Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) convened to provide advice and guidance to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding the practice of infection control and strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections, and antimicrobial resistance. As a result, CDC has released the Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship to accompany the existing recommendations for hospital and long term care settings. The four areas of focus for outpatient settings are:

* **Commitment:** Demonstrate dedication to and accountability for optimizing antibiotic prescribing and patient safety.
* **Action for policy and practice**: Implement at least one policy or practice to improve antibiotic prescribing, assess whether it is working, and modify as needed.
* **Tracking and reporting**: Monitor antibiotic prescribing practices and offer regular feedback to clinicians, or have clinicians assess their own antibiotic prescribing practices themselves.
* **Education and expertise**: Provide educational resources to clinicians and patients on antibiotic prescribing, and ensure access to needed expertise on optimizing antibiotic prescribing.

**Alliant GMCF** received a contract from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support the development of outpatient antibiotic stewardship programs in physician offices, urgent care centers, emergency rooms and federally qualified healthcare centers. Our focus will be to assist clinicians in ensuring that each patient receives **the right antibiotic, at the right time, at the right dose for the right duration** according to current evidence based guidelines.

Additional benefits to participation include:

1. Updated knowledge of appropriate antibiotic prescribing practices for common infections in seniors, thus lowering the overall cost of the care.

2. Available learning collaboratives, including topics, such as: appropriate antibiotic prescribing, patient engagement, antimicrobial resistance, etc.

3. Access to resources to educate patients about appropriate antibiotic usage.

4. Virtual technical assistance on workflow redesign and implementation of best practices to support appropriate antibiotic prescribing.

5. Overall cost of care will decrease, improving your value to insurers.

6. Completion of one *Improvement Activity* under the Merit Based Incentive Program (MIPS) of the Quality Payment Program (QPP)

**For more information:**

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<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6506a1.htm>

<http://www.alliantquality.org/sites/default/files/16_268900-a_coreelementsoutpatient_508.pdf>