

# Antibiotic Stewardship: Quick Wins for Improving Duration of Therapy

The HQIC collaborative group consisting of Alliant, Compass, IPRO, and Telligen appreciates your interest in the November 8, 2022 [Antibiotic Stewardship: Quick Wins for Improving Duration of Therapy LAN](#). National subject matter experts from the CDC - Arjun Srinivasan, MD, Michigan Hospital Medicine Safety Consortium - Valerie Vaughn, MD MSc, and MyMichigan Health - Robert Neetz, PharmD, BCPS, shared strategies for improving antibiotic prescribing practices and reducing duration of therapy. The speakers also addressed additional key elements of antibiotic stewardship such as implementation of electronic health record (EHR) solutions. Now, it is time to act!

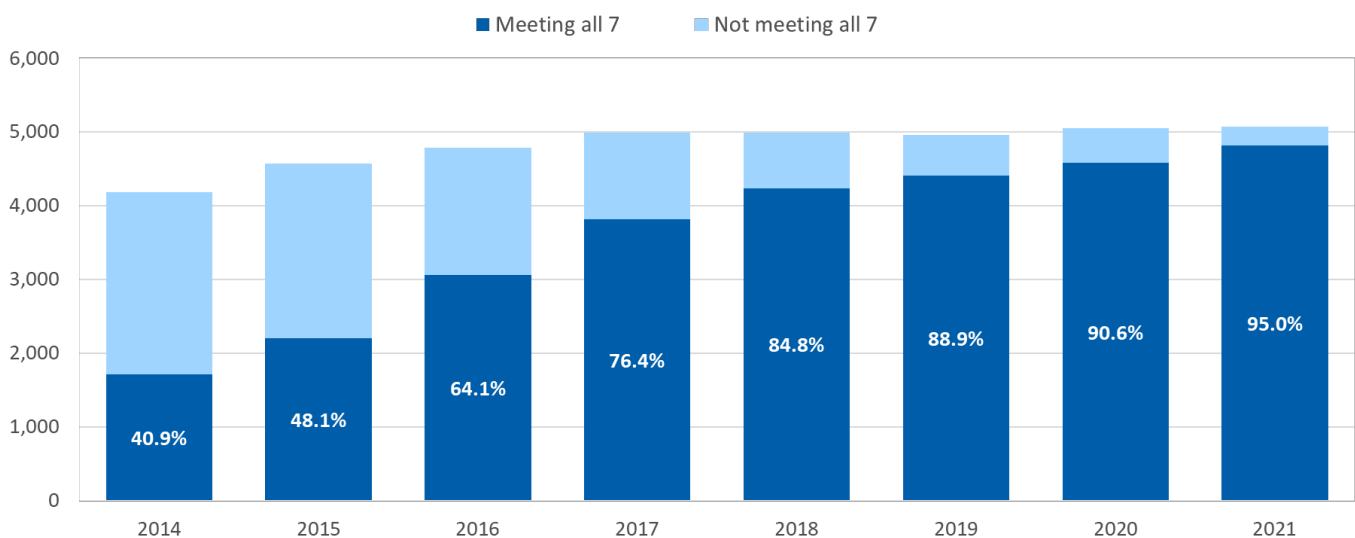
## Why Now

Antibiotic Stewardship (AS) remains a national priority aimed at optimizing antibiotic use to effectively treat infections, protect patients from harms caused by unnecessary use and combat antibiotic resistance. Hard-wiring meaningful stewardship is imperative given the COVID-19 Pandemic impact and associated challenges, including increased hospital-acquired infections (HAIs).

## National Trends

### Hospital Implementation of the CDC’s 7 Core Elements for Antibiotic Stewardship

NHSN Annual Hospital Surveys 2014-2021:  
Number and percentage of hospitals meeting all 7 Core Elements



## Consider Common Barriers and Solutions

Review common barriers identified during the webinar. Brainstorm ways to mitigate challenges to implementation.

- Competing priorities for time and resources
- Challenges optimizing the EHR to easily obtain antibiotic prescribing data
- Difficulty obtaining physician buy-in related to high turnover and/or use of contract staff
- Poor communication to next level provider, especially when there are differences in EHR systems
- Prolonged duration of therapy related to provider un-ease moving from inpatient daily care to reduced intensity of care
- Lack of positive culture results, especially with pneumonia, confirming inpatient therapy was adequate for the causative pathogen

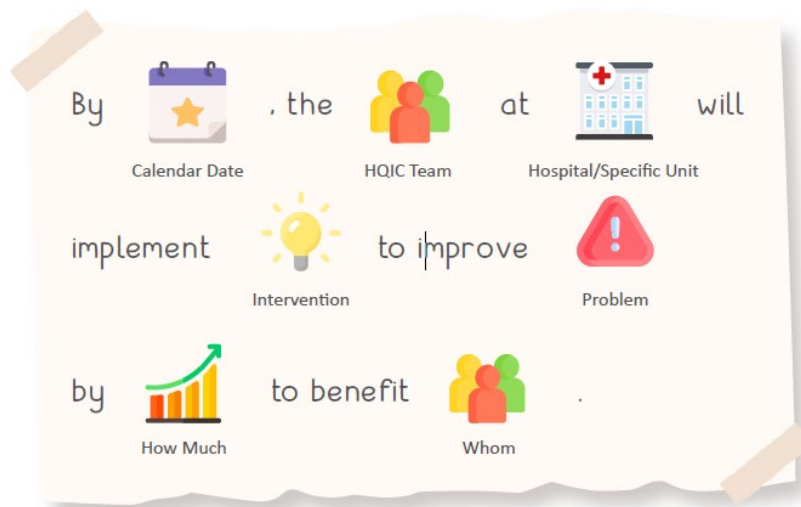
## Perform a Root Cause Analysis

Complete the [CDC Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Program Assessment Tool](#) to identify your organization's opportunities for improvement.

Fill in the [Plan-Do-Study-Act \(PDSA\) Worksheet](#) to identify your goal. Complete the PDSA cycle for test of change and improvement.

## Craft Your AIM Statement

By (date), the team at (hospital) will implement (intervention) to improve (the problem) by (how much) to benefit (for whom).



*Example: By January 2023, we will form a team and begin weekly duration of therapy audits and provide real-time feedback to providers, reducing the length of prescribing highly utilized antibiotics by 5%.*

## Implement Changes with Leading Interventions and Best Practices

Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
<a href="#">Identify a leader or champion and form a multidisciplinary team.</a>	<a href="#">Implement “antibiotic timeouts” performed daily by frontline clinicians for patients receiving antibiotics</a>	Gain technological support for reporting within the <a href="#">National Healthcare Safety Network’s Antibiotic Use and resistance (AUR) Module</a>
Review physician and pharmacist job descriptions, writing antibiotic stewardship responsibilities into their contracts	<a href="#">Review guidelines for treatment of common disease states</a> such as UTIs, Community Acquired Pneumonia and skin/soft tissue infections	Develop an <a href="#">antibiogram for your facility and share with staff at least annually</a>
<a href="#">Identify an antibiotic stewardship training program and make accessible to stewardship leaders</a>	<a href="#">Perform prospective audit and feedback with each antibiotic order</a>	<a href="#">Develop a process for assessing how often a patient is discharged with the correct antibiotics for the appropriate duration</a>
	Review the <a href="#">CDC Healthcare Professionals: Be Antibiotics Aware at Hospital Discharge Flowchart</a> and implement recommended strategies	Review and implement the <a href="#">CDC Priorities for Hospital Core Element Implementation</a> to further enhance the quality and impact of existing antibiotic stewardship programs

## Incorporate Health Equity and Patient and Family Engagement

- Post and share patient education tools from the CDC’s [“Be Antibiotics Aware”](#) campaign
- CDC’s [Patient Resources and Education](#) regarding antibiotic resistance and appropriate use of antibiotics
- NYSDOH-[Educating Patients about Antibiotic Use](#) (video)

## Seek Guidance

Not sure how to identify your organization’s root cause? Need help getting started implementing your selected intervention? Seeking feedback on your AIM statement?

Reach out to your HQIC clinical improvement consultant for assistance.

## Additional Resources

Presentation slides: [Joint HQIC Antibiotic Stewardship: Quick Wins for Improving Duration Therapy](#)

Presentation recording: [HQIC Antibiotic Stewardship Duration of Therapy LAN Nov 2022 Recording](#)

### AHRQ

- [Toolkit to Improve Antibiotic Use in Acute Care Hospitals](#)

### CDC Resources

- [CDC Antibiotic Stewardship Training Series](#)
- [Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs](#)
- [Antibiotic Stewardship Core Elements at Small and Critical Access Hospitals](#)
- [CDC Priorities for Hospital Core Element Implementation](#)
- [Toolkit to Enhance Nursing and Stewardship Partnership](#)
- [NHSN Antimicrobial Use and Resistance \(AUR\)](#)

### National Rural Health Resource Center

- [Antibiotic Stewardship Implementation: Suggested Strategies from High Performing CAHs](#)

### National Library of Medicine

- [Antibiotic Overuse After Hospital Discharge: A Multi-hospital Cohort Study](#)