



The APIC Advocacy Agenda: antibiotic stewardship

APIC believes that successful efforts to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria must recognize the collective responsibility to protect the effectiveness of all antibiotics – those we have today, and those yet to be developed; recognize the potential for these life-saving drugs to be overused in both the human and agricultural sectors; and recognize that there are challenges on both the demand and supply side of the equation.

APIC has outlined the role of our members, infection preventionists, and how they benefit stewardship programs.

How infection preventionists benefit stewardship programs

Infection preventionists are an interdisciplinary profession, coming from a wide range of backgrounds, primarily in nursing, microbiology, and public health. They work with health professionals from varied backgrounds and care settings to teach and promote infection prevention, patient safety, and healthcare quality improvement.

Because at its root, “Antimicrobial Stewardship is an inter-professional effort and involves optimal, prudent antimicrobial use for patients across the continuum of care: acute, inpatient, long-term care, and outpatient settings,” infection preventionists are uniquely situated to lead interdisciplinary teams to oversee appropriate use of antibiotics to treat infection. ([Moody J, Cosgrove SE, Olmsted R, et al. Antimicrobial stewardship: a collaborative partnership between infection preventionists and health care epidemiologists, *Am J Infect Control* 2012 March \(40\)2:94-95.](#))

Infection preventionists and healthcare epidemiologists partnered on a paper which stated that they can benefit antibiotic stewardship programs by:

- Providing support and guidance in approaches to surveillance for syndromes of interest;
- Implementing interventions to guide the delivery of evidence-based practices; and,
- Translating data and infection rates to healthcare workers, nursing units, and administrators. (Moody, Cosgrove, Olmsted et al.)

APIC efforts to promote antibiotic stewardship

APIC promotes antibiotic stewardship through the following activities, some of which overlap with recommendations included in the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) Report:

Clinician education and training

- We help healthcare facilities, policymakers, and scientific experts better understand antibiotic use and resistance through educational webinars for clinicians and information provided in our practice resources and in-person infection prevention training.
- We educate our membership on use of the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR) module of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network.

Consumer education

- Through our consumer information campaign known as “Infection Prevention and You,” we produce educational information for consumers such as our recent resource titled “What is antimicrobial stewardship?” In addition, we have produced consumer-friendly infographics encouraging the proper use of antibiotics. These initiatives are developed to be suitable for clinician and consumer use via social media.

Public policy initiatives:

- We support the President's efforts to promote antibiotic stewardship through a White House Forum on Antibiotic Resistance.
- We support including antibiotic stewardship in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Conditions of Participation.
- We lead and develop organizational support as part of a coalition to support increased resources for the National Healthcare Safety Network, which will be able to provide real time data on antibiotic use and trends through the AUR module.
- We collaborate on development of proposed measures for the expansion of Physician Quality Reporting System to include meaningful measures that would discourage physicians from inappropriate antibiotic use.
- We support recommendations endorsing the use of funding requirements to drive antibiotic stewardship.
- We support policy recommendations that call for prizes for future development of rapid diagnostics.
- We work with stakeholder groups to continue to monitor the use of antibiotics in the animal agriculture industry and comment when necessary to support the full and proper implementation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Guidance for Industry 209 and 213. We also recognize that these above guidance documents are largely voluntary changes and more effort may be required by the government to make these changes, as well as potentially stricter restrictions, mandatory.

Access additional information on [APIC antibiotic stewardship commitments and resources](#).

About APIC

APIC's mission is to create a safer world through prevention of infection. The association's more than 15,000 members direct infection prevention programs that save lives and improve the bottom line for hospitals and other healthcare facilities. APIC advances its mission through patient safety, implementation science, competencies and certification, advocacy, and data standardization. Visit APIC online at www.apic.org. Follow APIC on Twitter: www.twitter.com/apic and Facebook: www.facebook.com/APICInfectionPreventionandYou. For information on what patients and families can do, visit APIC's Infection Prevention and You website at www.apic.org/infectionpreventionandyou.

What do infection preventionists do?

Infection preventionists play a significant role in:

- Developing proven policies to ensure a safe environment for patients.
- Ensuring compliance with standards and regulations designed to protect patients and healthcare workers.
- Tracking and monitoring activities to identify and prevent healthcare-associated infections and other infectious agents.
- Leading and participating in healthcare quality improvement efforts designed to protect patients.
- Educating the public and healthcare personnel about infectious diseases and how to limit their spread.
- Serving as leaders in preparing healthcare facilities and personnel to be ready for events such as an influenza pandemic; infectious diseases such as Ebola; and acts of bioterrorism.
- Reporting communicable diseases to the CDC.