



The APIC Policy 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 across interdisciplinary lines and in varied care settings to learn, teach and promote infection prevention, patient safety, and healthcare quality improvement.

Because at its root, “Antibiotic Stewardship refers to collaborative, coordinated programs and interventions designed to improve antimicrobial prescribing (i.e., right drug, dose, duration, and route of administration when antibiotics are needed) to optimize clinical outcomes while minimizing unintended consequences of antimicrobial agent use such as toxicity, selection of pathogenic organisms, and emergence of resistance.” To encourage facilities to adopt Antibiotic Stewardship programs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified core elements for successful implementation in [hospitals and long-term care facilities](#) and [outpatient facilities](#).

Infection preventionists, healthcare epidemiologists, and infectious disease pharmacists expanded on the CDC core elements to explain the essential role of microbiology laboratory staff and clinical microbiologists. Their role includes:

- Assisting in timely and accurate diagnosis;
- Guidance in deciding the appropriate treatment of an ailment ; and,
- Advisement to effectively use molecular diagnostic technology for enhancement of infection prevention and control practices.

[\(Manning M, Septimus E, Dodds E, et al. Antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention-leveraging the synergy: A position paper update, *Am J Infect Control* 2018 April \(46\)4:364-368.\)](#)

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 National Healthcare Safety Network.

Consumer Education and Education

- Through our consumer information network known as “Infection Prevention and You”, we produce educational information for consumers such as our recent resource entitled “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 antibiotic stewardship efforts promoted by the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB).
- We support including antibiotic stewardship in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoP).
- We lead and develop organizational support for 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 meaningful measures that would discourage physicians from inappropriate antibiotic use.
- We support federal funding initiatives that promote antibiotic stewardship programs.
- 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 to regulatory agencies to promote stewardship when necessary.

For more information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's investments in antibiotic stewardship visit the [Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative webpage](#).

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.

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