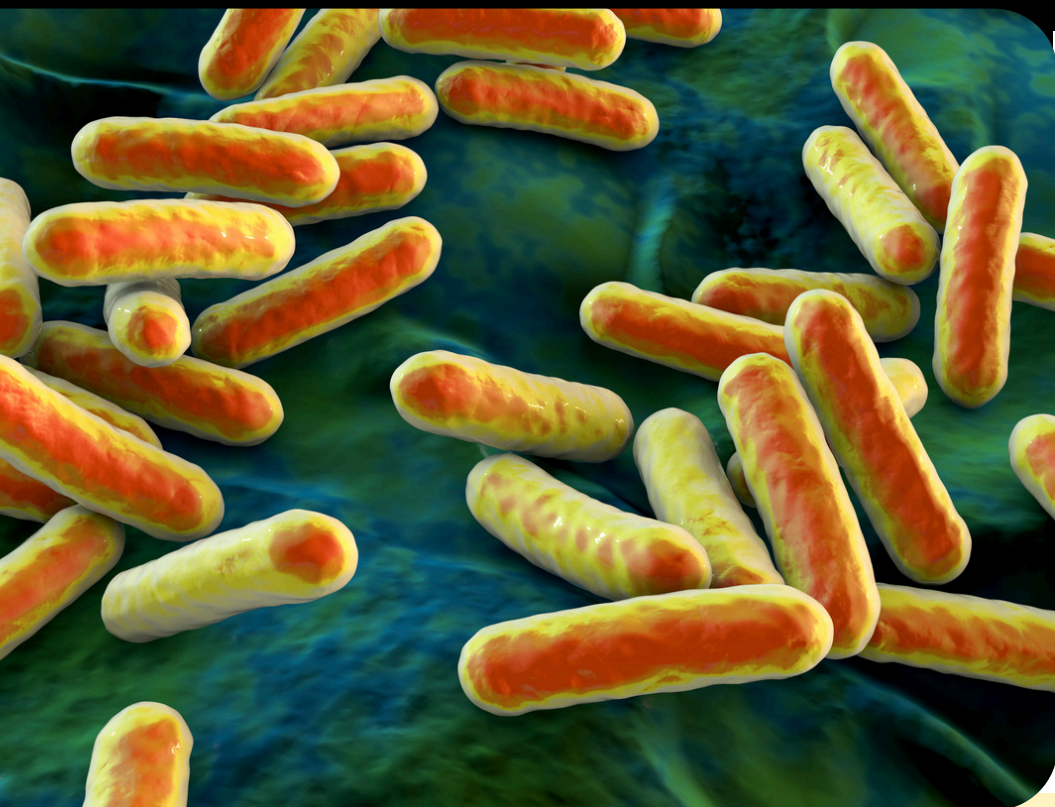


THE ANTIMICROBIAL ADVOCATE

 **ASAP**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 3: Issue 9
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sinusitis - Page 2

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Matt Miller, PharmD, BCIDP Joins Nebraska ASAP

Please join us in welcoming Matt Miller to the Nebraska ASAP program. Matt joins us from Children's Hospital Colorado and brings over a decade of Antimicrobial Stewardship expertise. He will focus on expanding Nebraska ASAP's capacity for outpatient antimicrobial stewardship.

WELCOME
to the
TEAM!

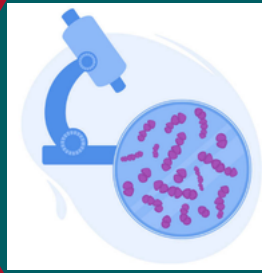


Why Amoxicillin Should be Firstline for Acute Sinusitis

2012 IDSA Guidelines recommend amoxicillin-clavulanate first line, citing increased *H. influenzae* resistance, but what does clinical data say regarding amoxicillin vs. amoxicillin-clavulanate?

References:

- [IDSA Sinusitis](#)
- [Amoxicillin vs. Amox-clav, adult](#)
- [Amoxicillin vs. Amox-clav, pediatric](#)



90-98% Viral

Bacterial etiology for acute sinusitis is *S. pneumoniae* followed by *H. influenzae*



High Spontaneous Remission, ~70%

Most will get better without antibiotics, supports observation



Outcomes:

Amox = Amox-clav

Failure in 3.1% vs 3% (n=234,608)



Safety

Amox-Clav:

- ↑ Diarrhea
- ↑ *C. difficile*
- ↑ Yeast infections



Key Points

- Mostly **viral**, antibiotics should NOT be prescribed routinely → **observation first**
- Consider **Amoxicillin** if antibiotics are indicated (i.e. severe, persistent, worsening)
- Duration = **5 days**



Turning Feedback Into Action

Does pharmacist review of new antibiotic orders in LTC decrease antibiotic days of therapy?

A quasi-experimental study in Canada evaluated whether pharmacist-led prospective audit and feedback program reduced antibiotic days of therapy per 1,000 resident days (DOT).

- Nine intervention retirement homes and 396 control homes were evaluated for 12 months pre- and 19 months post-intervention.
- DOT were estimated based on pharmacy dispensing data.
- **On weekdays, the pharmacist received an email notification for each new antibiotic dispensed the previous day. Recommendations were provided to prescribers via Fax.**
- After the pilot program, barriers, facilitators, and strategies were identified

Results

Intervention Analysis: total of 2,873 prescriptions

- Pharmacist assessed 794 new prescriptions
- 89 recommendations. **30%** were accepted
- UTI most common (30%)
- Unclear indication in 40%

Days of therapy were similar before and after:

- Intervention homes: 54 vs 57.9
- Control homes: 49 vs 51.6

BUT WAIT! Important lessons were learned and addressing these 4 barriers may help...

Barrier 2

Appropriateness assessment:

Barrier: Many prescriptions did not have indications

Strategy: Increase documentation of indications

Barrier 3

Pharmacy-provider communication:

Barrier: Use of fax; no direct communication

Strategy: Restructure communication with electronic or verbal recommendations

Barrier 1

Relationship building:

Barrier: Home staff are unaware of the pharmacist's role

Strategy: Develop partnership and identify clinical champions

Barrier 4

Information flow/IT:

Barrier: Notification is not timely and is incomplete

Strategy: Share home- and/or provider-level data to facilitate benchmarking



US Antibiotic Awareness Week is Coming!

November 18–24, 2026

Now is a great time to brainstorm how your team can participate.
Here is a list of ideas to get you started!

- Share information on antibiotic use and resistance with staff
- Participate in Nebraska ASAP trivia (coming soon!)
- Post flyers throughout hospitals and clinics
- Promote on internal websites/intranet/social media
- Set up a table with posters/flyers in patient waiting areas or cafeterias
- Create short videos for social media/local news outlets
- Plan digital street signage
- Newsletter articles
- Highlight recent accomplishments of local hospital or LTC antibiotic stewardship teams
- Wear purple!
- Light local landmarks and buildings in purple

For more ideas and resources, visit:
[U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week \(USAAW\) Toolkit](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



MIDWEST ANTIMICROBIAL
STEWARDSHIP COLLABORATIVE

MASC is a regional forum that brings together clinicians, leaders, industry, and other partners to advance antimicrobial and diagnostic stewardship.

Save the Date! Thursday, November 12th, from 1200-1300

Antibiotics and the Microbiome: What Microbiome Researchers Want Antimicrobial Stewards to Know About Antibiotic Use

This moderated session features emerging microbiome research and key microbiome implications for stewardship clinicians. The goal is for participants to leave informed, engaged, and equipped with insights that can meaningfully influence practice.

Pre-registration is not required. [Click Here for the Zoom Link to Join](#)

For questions or to join the mailing list, please email: MidwestASC@gmail.com



Breakpoints
The SIDP Podcast

Check out the recent episodes of Breakpoints, the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists Podcast!

Episode #142 –
Does oseltamivir
harm critically ill
patients? The
REMAP-CAP results

Episode #141 –
Prostatitis: Hard
to Reach, Harder
to Treat

Episode #140 – Beta-
lactamase inhibitors:
“Scientifically
elegant, just
complex”