ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

What is an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program?

An Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is a set of systematic activities aimed to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobials.

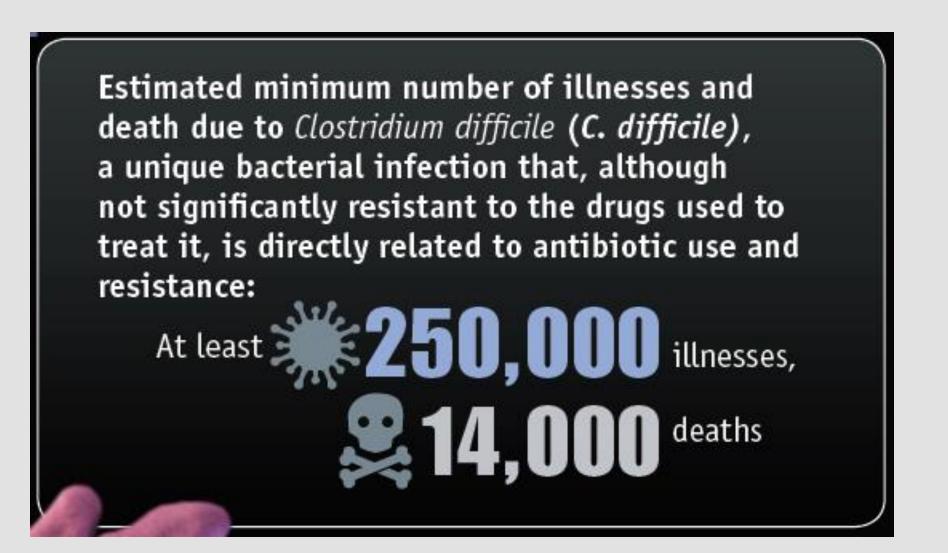
The program goals are to:

- ☐ Improve quality of patient care and patient outcomes
- ☐ Minimize side effects from antimicrobials
- Limit the development of antimicrobial resistance
- Educate providers on when to prescribe antimicrobials, and the right drug, dose and duration to use

Why is Antimicrobial Stewardship Program needed?

- Up to 75% of antimicrobial use is considered inappropriate
- Inappropriate use will increase antimicrobial resistance and lead to unwanted side effects (*Clostridium difficile* infection)
- ☐ An Antimicrobial Stewardship Program can improve patient outcomes and reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use







How can Antimicrobial Stewardship Program be implemented?

Practical steps of implementation include:

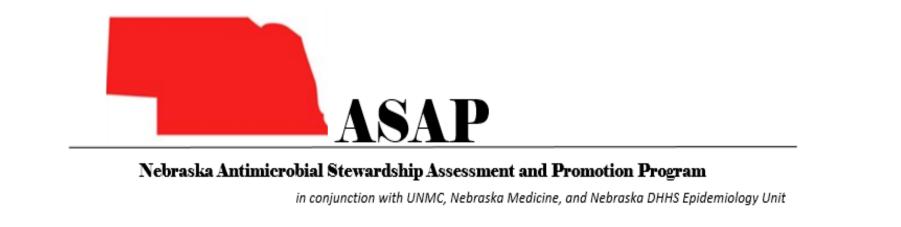
- 1. Obtain program support from facility leadership
- 2. Partner with regional physicians or pharmacists with infectious diseases or antimicrobial stewardship expertise
- 3. Form an Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee
- 4. Review data on infection assessment practices, and antimicrobial use and resistance patterns
- 5. Determine program goals such as the types and extents of interventions (e.g., use assessment tools for all suspected infections, eliminate treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria)
- 6. Educate prescribers and staff on the types, reasons and goals of the selected interventions
- 7. Track outcomes after implementation of interventions
- 8. Report and educate program activities and outcomes to prescribers, staff and residents/families



Who should be part of the program?

Ideally everyone who is involved in the antibiotic use process:

- ☐ Medical Directors: set standards for antibiotic prescribing practices
- ☐ Directors of Nursing: set standards for nursing practices
- ☐ Infection Preventionists: be responsible for the Infection Prevention and Control Program and support Antimicrobial Stewardship Program activities
- Consultant Pharmacists: perform drug use review, provide antibiotic use data and assist with developing treatment guidelines
- Prescribers: prescribe antimicrobials only when clearly indicated
- Nursing staff: evaluate patient using standardized assessment tools and communicate patients' symptoms to prescribers









Content developed based on resources provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – retrieved October 2017 from https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/antibiotic-stewardship.html.

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