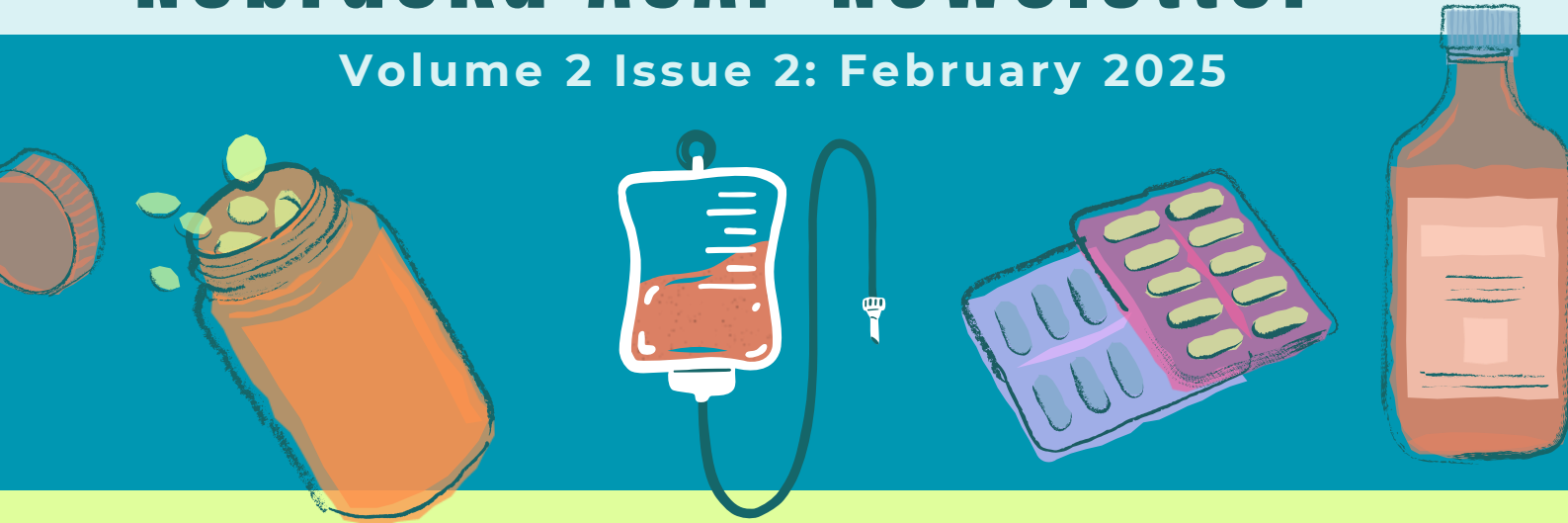


THE ANTIMICROBIAL ADVOCATE

Nebraska ASAP Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2: February 2025



Save the Date!

2025 Nebraska Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit
May 30, 2025
Lincoln, Nebraska
Registration coming soon!



QUICK REFERENCE

*Wondering if an oral
antibiotic, antiviral, or
antifungal medication can be
opened or crushed for enteral
tube administration?
See Nebraska Medicine's
quick reference for
antiinfectives below!*



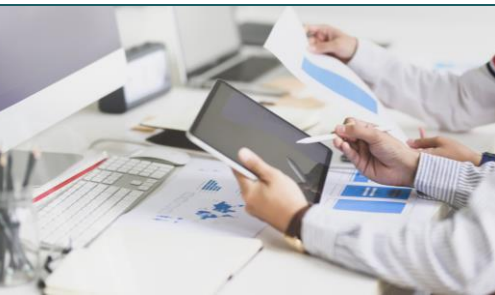
[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS](#)

THE NHSN ANNUAL SURVEY IS OPEN!

At the beginning of each survey year, a new facility survey must be completed to reflect data from the prior calendar year (currently responding for 2024 practices).

Deadline: March 1st

Completion of the survey is not a requirement for long-term care, but ASAP highly encourages completion!



Acute Care Hospitals:

(includes acute care hospitals; critical access hospitals; oncology; orthopedic; pediatric; women's and children's; military; psychiatric; and VAs)

Completion should involve the pharmacist and physician stewardship leads.

Questions 41-52

[Link: Annual Hospital Survey](#)

Long-Term Care:

Completion should involve input from the consultant pharmacist, director of nursing, and/or medical director involved in antibiotic stewardship at the facility.

Questions 14-23

[Link: LTCF Annual Facility Survey](#)

Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals:

Completion should involve the pharmacist and physician stewardship leads.

Questions 34-45

[Link: LTAC Annual Survey Form](#)

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities:

(includes free-standing facilities and CMS-certified inpatient rehabilitation units located within a hospital)

Completion should involve the pharmacist and physician stewardship leads.

Questions 33-44

[Link: Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Survey](#)

Clinical Study Review Acute Cough in Outpatients

Ebell, Mark H. et al. Clinical Microbiology and Infection
Volume 30, Issue 12, 1569 - 1575, December 2024

Prospective cohort study of adults in primary or urgent care with a chief complaint of cough and symptoms consistent with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI).

618 patients had PCR results, 443 were followed until symptoms resolved.

29% prescribed an antibiotic, most commonly amox/clav, azithromycin, doxycycline, & amoxicillin

➤ What causes cough?

- 16%: 1+ viruses detected
- 34% 1+ bacteria detected
- 27% had both viral and bacterial pathogens detected
- 22%: No pathogen detected

Most common bacterial pathogens:

- *Haemophilus influenza* (28%)
- *Moraxella catarrhalis* (16%)
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (10%)

Most common viral pathogens:

- Rhinovirus (17%)
- Influenza (13%)
- SARS-CoV-2 (12%)
- Seasonal coronaviruses (8%)

How severe is it? ◀

Symptom	Viral	Bacterial	Mixed Viral / Bacterial
Feverishness	37%	19%	38%
Chills or Sweats	36%	18%	38%
Feeling generally unwell	78%	65%	81%
Myalgias	43%	29%	48%
Colored Sputum	23%	43%	30%

➤ How long did coughs last on average?

- 14.7 days: viruses
- 17.3 days: bacteria
- 16.9 days: mixed infection
- 18.4 days: No pathogen detected

Take Home Points

- For patients presenting with LRTI symptoms to primary or urgent care, the duration and **severity** of symptoms/**cough** isn't really that different between bacteria and viruses. Those with no pathogen detected at all had the longest duration of cough.
- In outpatient and urgent care settings, **extended respiratory pathogen panels provide limited benefit**. Focusing on testing of pathogens with specific treatment, like influenza or COVID, especially during periods of increased community activity, may offer better clinical value.
- The average duration of cough was >2 weeks no matter the pathogen detected, with >10% having cough lasting roughly 1 month. Thus, coughing for >2 weeks after a respiratory infection is not unusual and prolonged cough should not usually prompt additional testing or antibiotic use.

Managing expectations is very important. Patients stay sick with bronchitis longer than you may think...and antibiotics are unlikely to change that.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Creighton University Infectious Disease Symposium

April 26, 2025
Online via Zoom

[Click Here for More Information and to Register!](#)

The Transmission Newsletter

Subscribe for timely and relevant Global Health Security news curated by the Global Center for Health Security

[Learn more here!](#)

Breakpoints: Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists Podcast

New Episode - A Bone to Pick: Biofilm Busters for Prosthetic Joint Infections
Featuring UNMC ID Physician
Nico Cortes-Penfield, MD

[Listen Here!](#)