

A Quick Guide on Antimicrobial Stewardship Program for Long Term Care

An Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) in long-term care (LTC) ensures appropriate antimicrobial use, reduces adverse events, prevents the emergence of resistance, and improves residents' health outcomes. LTCs should gradually implement the following seven core elements in their ASP.



Leadership Commitment

Facility leadership demonstrates support and commitment to safe and appropriate antimicrobial use by implementing policies, active oversight, data review, and resource allocation



Accountability

A designated clinician leads antimicrobial stewardship, with collaborative support from pharmacists, nursing lead and other key staff



Pharmacy Expertise

Pharmacists and infectious disease experts support stewardship efforts through regular antimicrobial reviews and expert consultation



Action

Facility follows guidelines, uses standardized tools, reassesses antimicrobial use, and monitors residents to ensure safe and appropriate treatment



Tracking

Antimicrobial use and resistance trends are tracked, reported, and reviewed regularly



Reporting

Prescribers are provided with feedback, and facility-wide use of antimicrobial trends are shared to help optimize prescribing decisions



Education

Ongoing education and resources on antimicrobial resistance and appropriate use are provided to healthcare staff, residents, and families

See below for more comprehensive ASP guidelines:

[CDC: Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes](#)

[CDC: Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes Checklist](#)

