

**CONWAY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
PHARMACY POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**TITLE: ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (ASP)
POLICY #:**

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PURPOSE

To establish the process for encouraging and facilitating the appropriate use of antimicrobials and promoting evidence based practices of antimicrobial stewardship.

POLICY

The goal of Antimicrobial Stewardship is to improve appropriate antimicrobial utilization in order to improve patient outcomes, minimize toxicity and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance. The goal of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is to promote optimal antimicrobial utilization within Conway Regional Health System and to track antimicrobial stewardship outcomes.

In order to assure appropriate and quality utilization of antimicrobial agents, a committee will be led by a physician and/or pharmacist with dedicated time set aside for physician and pharmacist leaders. The committee also consists of at least one representative from the following areas:

- Clinical Practitioner (preferably Infectious Disease specialty)
- Pharmacy expert (preferably Stewardship or ID trained)
- Executive Leadership
- Infection Prevention
- Microbiology
- Information Systems
- Frontline Nursing
- Education

PROCEDURE

Antimicrobial stewardship will be performed as an ongoing practice involving several disciplines throughout Conway Regional Health System. The Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee will develop strategies and initiatives to promote appropriate antimicrobial use.

- A. The antimicrobial stewardship program committee will be responsible for the following:
1. Compliance with The Joint Commission Standards and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Conditions of Participation related to Antimicrobial Stewardship.
 2. Coordination among all components of the hospital responsible for antimicrobial use and resistance, including, but not limited to, the infection prevention and control program, the quality assessment and performance improvement program, the medical staff, nursing services, and pharmacy services.

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3. Adherence to nationally recognized guidelines, as well as best practices, for improving antimicrobial use.
 4. Development or revision of existing policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines related to infectious diseases (e.g., restricted antimicrobials, treatment guidelines based on local susceptibilities).
 5. Development and distribution of an antibiogram at least annually as well as assessing trends of antimicrobial resistance within the facility.
 6. Providing recommendations to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee about antimicrobial selection, dose, and duration of therapy.
 7. Provide ongoing healthcare practitioner education (e.g., newsletters, in-services, and one-on-one interaction) regarding antimicrobial stewardship initiatives.
 8. Collecting, tracking and analyzing antimicrobial consumption.
 9. Collecting, tracking and analyzing resistance patterns.
 10. Regularly reporting antimicrobial stewardship measures to relevant healthcare practitioners and hospital administration.
- B. In accordance with the CDC Core Elements of Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Program recommendations, all prescribers are encouraged to perform the following:
1. Document in the medical record or during order entry the following:
 - i. Antimicrobial indication
 - ii. Antimicrobial dose
 - iii. Duration of antimicrobial therapy
 2. Review appropriateness of any antimicrobials prescribed after 48-72 hours from the initial orders (e.g., antimicrobial time out.)
- C. Pharmacists are to perform interventions approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee which include the following:
1. Intravenous to oral conversion of antimicrobials
 2. Renal dosing of antimicrobials
 3. Therapeutic interchanges
 4. Pharmacokinetic consults

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D. Roles and Responsibilities

1. Appointed Antimicrobial Stewardship Team Leader (champion: e.g., infectious diseases physician or pharmacist)
 - i. The development and implementation of the hospital's antimicrobial stewardship program based on nationally recognized guidelines, to monitor and improve the use of antimicrobials.
 - ii. All documentation, written or electronic, of antimicrobial stewardship program activities.
 - iii. Communication and collaboration with medical staff, nursing, and pharmacy leadership, as well as the hospital's infection prevention and control and quality assessment and performance improvement programs, on antimicrobial use issues.

2. Physician Champion
 - i. Provides oversight to team functions.
 - ii. Provides clinical guidance and enforcement.
 - iii. Responsible for program outcomes.

3. Pharmacist
 - i. Provides co-leadership in improving antimicrobial use.
 - ii. Provides monitoring of microbiological and antimicrobial use data.
 - iii. Collaborates with physicians regarding adjustment of antimicrobial therapy related to pharmacist monitoring activities.

4. Microbiology personnel
 - i. Guide the proper use of tests and the flow of results.
 - ii. Work collaboratively to ensure that lab reports present data in a way that supports optimal antimicrobial use.
 - iii. Contribute to antibiogram development and education.

5. Infection control personnel
 - i. Communication and collaboration with the antimicrobial stewardship program.

6. Informational Technology
 - i. Assist with integrating stewardship protocols into existing workflow.

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7. Executive Leadership Member
 - i. Support the needs of the committee (ie. budget, technology, time, authority and resources to succeed).
 - ii. Assist with communication of relevant antimicrobial stewardship information and data to other ELT members and physicians.

8. Frontline Nursing
 - i. Collaborate with antimicrobial stewardship program and assist with dissemination of information to frontline staff.
 - ii. Aide with promoting education of patients and families on proper antimicrobial use.
 - iii. Promote antimicrobial stewardship practices at the bedside through peer education and communication. (ie. Proper culture collection technique, timely administration of antimicrobials, communication with care team, etc.)

9. Education Personnel
 - i. Collaborate with antimicrobial stewardship program and assist with dissemination of information and education of clinical staff.