

The Joint Commission Medication Management Standard Related to Antimicrobial Stewardship for Medical Staff

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs are required by The Joint Commission and are a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Condition of Participation (CoP). AMS programs are dedicated to optimizing antimicrobial therapy by avoiding unnecessary use, choosing the least broad-spectrum antibiotic possible, using appropriate doses for patient specific parameters and indication, and using the shortest appropriate duration.

Why do we do Antimicrobial Stewardship?

Widespread antimicrobial use has compromised its value, leading to a crisis of antimicrobial resistance.

- 20-50% of antibiotic use in hospitals is unnecessary or inappropriate.
- Over half of antibiotic prescribing in outpatient settings may be inappropriate.
- Reducing unnecessary antibiotic use avoids selection pressure—both pathogen and commensal—decreasing antibiotic resistance, *Clostridium difficile* infections, and healthcare costs, and improving patient outcomes.
- Improving antibiotic use is a medication-safety and patient-safety issue.
- AMS interventions have been proven to improve individual patient outcomes, reduce the overall burden of antibiotic resistance, and save healthcare dollars.

If everyone — healthcare providers, hospital administrators, policy makers, and patients — works together to employ effective antibiotic stewardship programs, we can improve patient care, more effectively combat antibiotic resistance, and ultimately save lives.

What is the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at St. Patrick Hospital?

St. Patrick Hospital has modeled their AMS Program after the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs.

The AMS pharmacist and Infectious Disease physician on service review all patients admitted at St. Patrick Hospital on antimicrobials on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and make recommendations to the primary team via telephone, pager, electronic medical record sticky note or face-to-face as needed. The team collects, analyzes, and reports data on the AMS program including prescribing and resistance patterns. It develops and audits facility-specific treatment recommendations for common indications based on national guidelines, local susceptibilities and formulary options. It provides provider specific feedback and optimal prescribing information, as well as education which is required upon hire and annually for all staff including licensed independent practitioners that order, dispense, administer and monitor antimicrobials. Process measures and outcome rates are shared at Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, Infection Prevention Committee and with key stake holders and committees as requested. These activities are in compliance with The Joint Commission Medication Management Standard MM.09.01.01 and CMS-3346-F.

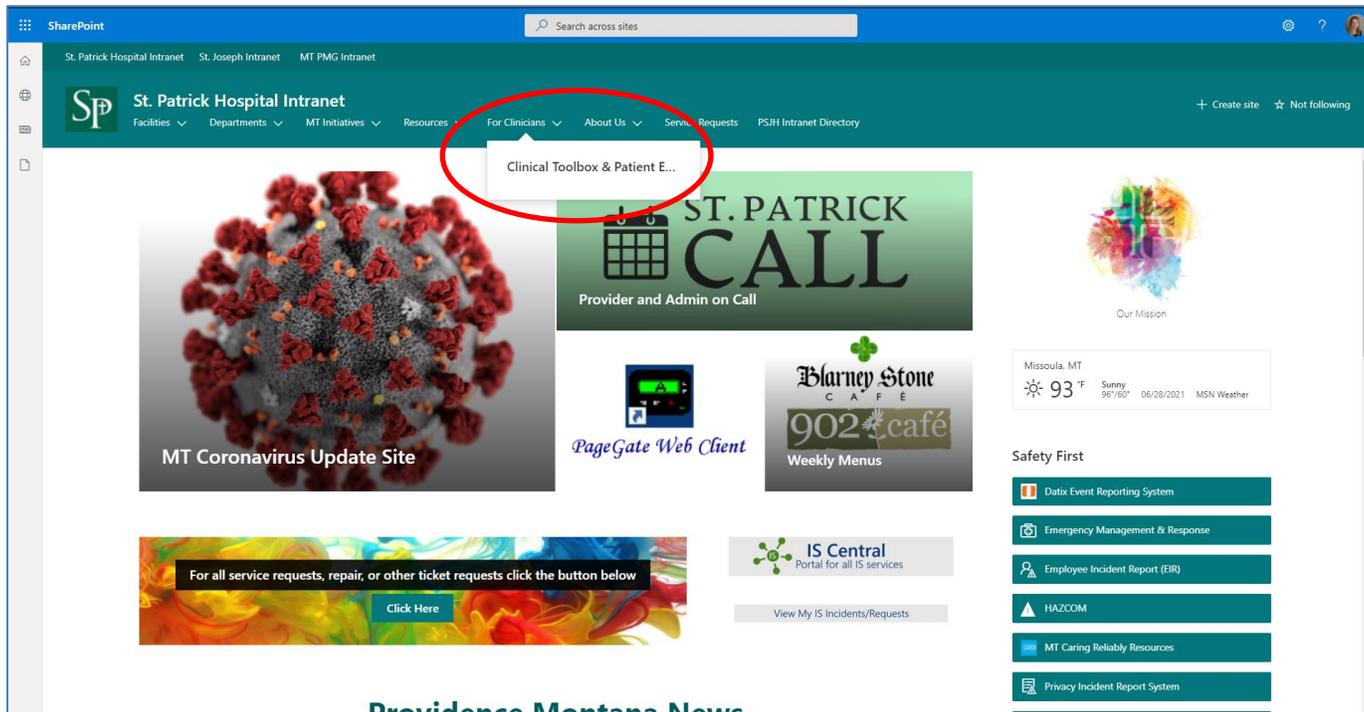
How can you participate in Antimicrobial Stewardship?

- Avoid treating viral syndromes such as 'colds' and acute bronchitis.
- Avoid treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria in adults (exceptions include pregnant women). Pyuria accompanying asymptomatic bacteriuria is not an indication for antimicrobial treatment.
- Make sure indication, dose, and expected duration are specified in the patient record.
- Be aware of antibiotic resistance patterns utilizing our local antibiogram.
- Reassess within 48 hours of starting an antibiotic, when the patient's culture results come back. Adjust the prescription, if necessary. Stop the prescription, if indicated.
- Thoroughly assess beta-lactam allergies to avoid unnecessary fluoroquinolone use.
- Order microbiology cultures, when possible, when initiating or broadening antibiotics.
- Talk to your patients about appropriate use of antibiotics.
- Follow hand hygiene and other infection control measures with every patient.

For more information contact Sadie Giuliani, PharmD at 406-329-4148 or Dr. Claude Tonnerre, Antimicrobial Stewardship Medical Director.

Where do I find our local antibiogram and local treatment recommendations based on our antibiogram?

On the main Intranet page, from the “For Clinicians” drop down menu choose the “Clinical Toolbox and Patient Education”.



Then scroll down and choose “SPH Antibiogram”.

