

Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Checklist

Please select at least one item from each Core Element to work on.

1. Commitment

Can your health care setting demonstrate dedication to and accountability for optimizing antibiotic prescribing and patient safety related to antibiotics? If yes, check all that apply below.

Identify a single leader to direct antibiotic stewardship activities within a facility.*

Communicate with all clinic staff members to set patient expectations.*

Write and display public commitments in support of antibiotic stewardship (clinicians only).*

Include antibiotic stewardship-related duties in position descriptions or job evaluation criteria.

2. Action

Is your health care setting implementing at least one policy or practice to improve antibiotic prescribing? If yes, check all that apply below.

Provide communication skills training for clinicians.*

Use delayed prescribing practices or watchful waiting, when appropriate (clinicians only).*

Use evidence-based diagnostic criteria and treatment recommendations (clinicians only).*

Require explicit written justification in the medical record for non-recommended antibiotic prescribing.

Provide support for clinical decisions.

Use call centers, nurse hotlines or pharmacist consultations as triage systems to prevent unnecessary visits.

3. Tracking and Reporting

Does your health care setting monitor at least one aspect of antibiotic prescribing? If yes, check all that apply below.

Participate in continuing medical education and quality improvement activities to track and improve antibiotic prescribing (clinicians only).*

Track and report antibiotic prescribing for one or more high-priority conditions.*

Track and report the percentage of all visits leading to antibiotic prescriptions.*

Self-evaluate antibiotic prescribing practices (clinicians only).

Assess and share performance on quality measures and established reduction goals.

(If already tracking and reporting one of the above) Track and report, at the level of a health care system, complications of antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance trends among common outpatient bacterial pathogens.

4. Education and Expertise

Does your health care setting provide resources to clinicians and patients on evidence-based antibiotic prescribing? If yes, check all that apply below.

Provide patient education materials (clinicians only).*

Provide continuing education activities for clinicians.*

Educate about the potential harms of antibiotic treatment (clinicians only).*

Use effective communications strategies to educate patients about when antibiotics are and are not needed (clinicians only).*

Provide face-to-face education training (academic detailing).

Ensure timely access to persons with expertise.

**New to the Core Elements? These are the measures that we would suggest implementing first when you are getting started. If you are a clinician, we suggest starting with the actions in bold.*

