

AHS Launches a New Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

CMO <CMO@albertahealthservices.ca>

Wed 5/29/2024 4:19 PM



AHS Launches a New Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,

We are excited to share the news that we are launching a new provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP), under the Quality and Healthcare Improvement (QHI) portfolio, that will focus on integrating and optimizing antimicrobial stewardship practices in AHS acute care sites across the province.

Antimicrobial misuse and over-use contribute to poor patient outcomes and antimicrobial resistance, a known global health threat as declared by the World Health Organization (WHO). Through the new ASP, AHS is taking concrete steps to address this threat and improve the care of our patients.

There are many patient benefits of an integrated ASP, including:

- Reduction of unnecessary adverse drug reactions;
- Reduce C. difficile infection rates;
- Decrease antibiotic resistance;
- Improve patient outcomes.

An integrated ASP will launch in AHS acute care sites in a phased approach with the following initiatives:

- Prospective audit and feedback of key broad-spectrum antibiotics
- Optimization of the management of S. aureus bacteremia (a bloodstream infection with high morbidity and mortality in Alberta) supported through an Alberta Innovates Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) grant.
- Site-based antimicrobial utilization reports to identify high priority areas for intervention, measure the impacts of the program and inform stakeholder decision making.

Implementation of an ASP is an Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practice. Once successfully implemented, AHS endeavors to be a national leader in demonstrating large scale impacts on antimicrobial use and improved patient outcomes.

To learn more, please visit the [Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Insite page](#). We will continue to add more resources and Zone-specific information to this page as the program is implemented.

Sincerely,

Peter Jamieson

Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Quality

Karen Horon

Vice President, Cancer Care and Clinical Support Services