

LET'S TALK ABOUT ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP!

Did you know?

- Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health threats.
- Antibiotics are the most important tool we have to combat life-threatening bacterial diseases, but antibiotics can have side effects.
- Antibiotic overuse increases the development of drug-resistant germs.
- Patients, healthcare providers, healthcare institution administrators, and policy makers must work together to employ effective strategies for improving antibiotic use—ultimately improving medical care.

Antibiotic stewardship programs and interventions help ensure that patients:

- get the right drug
- at the right time
- using the right dose
- for the right duration of time

Numerous studies have shown that implementing an antibiotic stewardship program not only saves lives, but it can save significant healthcare dollars.

Why we must act now

- The way we use antibiotics today, or in one patient, directly impacts how effective they will be tomorrow or in another patient; they are a shared resource.
- Antibiotic resistance is not just a problem for the person with the infection. Some resistant bacteria have the potential to spread to others, promoting antibiotic-resistant infections.
- Since it will be many years before new antibiotics are available to treat some resistant infections, we need to improve the use of antibiotics that are currently available.

Antibiotic stewardship will:

- **Decrease** antibiotic resistance
- **Decrease** *C. difficile* infections
- **Decrease** costs
- **Increase** good patient outcomes

Let's Talk!