

CDC CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance Among Hospitalized Children

Strategy: Prevent Infection

Step 1. Vaccinate hospitalized children and staff

- Vaccinate according to AAP/ACIP/AAFP recommendations
- Catch-up with routine vaccinations prior to discharge from the hospital
- Give influenza vaccine to at-risk infants and children
- Get influenza vaccine

Step 2. Get the devices out

- Insert catheters and devices only when essential and minimize duration of exposure
- Use the correct catheter
- Use proper insertion and catheter-care protocols
- Remove catheters and other devices when no longer essential



Strategy: Diagnose and Treat Infection Effectively

Step 3. Use appropriate methods for diagnosis

- Order appropriate lab tests
- Obtain appropriate specimens

Step 4. Target the pathogen

- Target empiric antimicrobial therapy to likely pathogens
- Target definitive antimicrobial therapy to known pathogens

Step 5. Access the experts

- Consult infectious disease experts for complicated infections



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Strategy: Use Antimicrobials Wisely

Step 6. Practice antimicrobial control

- Optimize timing, regimen, dose, route, and duration of antimicrobial treatment and prophylaxis
- Follow policies and protocols in your institution

Step 7. Use local data

- Know your regional, institutional, and high-risk unit-specific antibiograms
- Know your formulary
- Know your patient population (birthweight, age, and setting)

Step 8. Treat infection, not contamination or colonization

- Use proper antisepsis for drawing blood cultures
- Avoid culturing catheter tips
- Treat bacteremia, not catheter colonization or contamination

Step 9. Know when to say “no”

- Avoid routine use of vancomycin, extended-spectrum cephalosporins, carbapenems, oral quinolones, and linezolid
- Follow guidelines from CDC, AAP, and other professional societies

Step 10. Stop treatment

- When infection is unlikely
- When culture results indicate no clinical need for antimicrobials
- When infection is cured



Strategy: Prevent Transmission

Step 11. Practice infection control

- Consult infection control teams
- Stay home when you are sick
- Restrict visitors with signs or respiratory or gastrointestinal tract infections from contact with your patients

Step 12. Practice hand hygiene

- Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based handrub
- Set an example

