

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

A growing body of evidence from the CDC demonstrates that hospital-based programs dedicated to improving antibiotic use, commonly referred to as “Antibiotic Stewardship Programs,” can both help optimize the treatment of infections and reduce adverse events associated with antibiotic use. We at Merck support the CDC’s Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs, outlined below.



COMMITMENT

Leadership support, funding, staff, information technology and time



ACCOUNTABILITY

For stewardship program leaders and doctors prescribing antibiotics



EXPERTISE

Programs directed by infectious disease/ antimicrobial stewardship experts



ACTIONS

Institution-wide policies, disease state management, and patient-specific interventions



TRACKING

Monitor patient outcomes, process measures, antimicrobial utilization, and unintended consequences of antimicrobial use, including resistance



REPORTING

Regularly update doctors, nurses and hospital staff on above information



EDUCATION

Educate healthcare professionals and patients
- right drug, right time, right dose, right duration

Source: Based on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for hospitals, available at www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/implementation/core-elements.html