



Antimicrobial Stewardship Framework & Policy

Whiddon

Document Control

Title	Antimicrobial Stewardship Framework/Policy
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Document Review

Date	Description of review	Initiated by	Version
1 st July 2019	New Framework for Antimicrobial Stewardship align with Bug Control Manual and Overarching Infection Control Policy.	GMCG	1.0
27/11/24	Time based review / NDIS inclusions . Reorder of document logic. Responsibilities heading, grievance with policy	GMCR&C	1.10

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Antimicrobial Stewardship

Purpose and scope:

The purpose of the Antimicrobial Stewardship policy is to promote optimal Management and or the senior registered nurse of antimicrobials in order to maximise the effectiveness of treatment and minimise potential for harm (including drug resistance and toxicity).

Principles of antimicrobial Management and or the senior registered nurse:

- Decisions about antimicrobial prescribing should be based on careful clinical assessment, ensuring that the benefits of antimicrobial use are always weighed against the potential for harm
- Decisions regarding the prescribing of antimicrobials should be based on the best available evidence. National guidelines such as The Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotics should form the basis of prescribing recommendations, with adjustment for individual resident factors (allergies, comorbidities).
- Documentation for all antimicrobial prescriptions should be clear to enable effective communication between all team members.
- Residents or clients or their representatives should always receive clear information about their clinical condition and treatment in a form they can understand.
- Regular review and refinement of the antimicrobial therapy should occur based on the residents or client's clinical progress (improvement or deterioration) and available clinical information (investigation results).

Policy:

This policy applies to consumers in Residential Care and Community Care funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) .

To maintain clarity and consistency throughout the policy, the terms "consumers," "residents," "clients," "elders," and "NDIS participants" will collectively be referred to as "consumers," all such references encompass these groups equally.

Whiddon team members will ensure an effective program to prevent and control infections is implemented, thereby minimising the need for antimicrobial use. This may include elements such as vaccination, hand hygiene, fluid intake in the prevention of urinary tract infections etc.

Responsibilities pertaining to antimicrobial stewardship

1. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that all clinical team members are informed about the importance of safe antimicrobial use. Resources to raise awareness should be available (e.g., posters, pamphlets) for staff, residents and families.
2. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that clinical team members are educated about the recognition of signs and symptoms of infection and know how to

escalate concerns to medical carers in a timely way.

3. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that clinical team members know how to access individuals with antimicrobial prescribing expertise (e.g. pharmacist or general practitioner) to discuss concerns about medication.
4. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that all clinical team members can access current endorsed national guidelines on antimicrobial prescribing.
5. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable clinical team members to access antimicrobials in a timely way for residents or clients with acute infections.
6. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure a system is in place that enables diagnostic test results to be reviewed in a timely way.
7. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure that if an antimicrobial is prescribed all key prescribing elements are clearly documented in a residents or clients clinical notes, medication charts to facilitate good communication.
8. Management and or the senior registered nurse will require that if an antimicrobial is prescribed, the resident or client should be clinically assessed by the prescriber within a reasonable timeframe e.g., 48 hours.
9. Management and or the senior registered nurse will require all new antimicrobial prescriptions to have a clear treatment plan (especially after seven days) and all prolonged (long-term) antimicrobial prescriptions to be reviewed at least half yearly to determine if ongoing use is still appropriate.
10. Management and or the senior registered nurse will ensure a resident or client with a suspected infection, and/or their carer, receives information on their health condition and treatment options in a format and language that they can understand.
11. Management and or the senior registered nurse will specify a person who is responsible for leading and coordinating AMS initiatives. For Whiddon this will be the senior clinician at each service, in practice the Deputy Director of Care Services or the Director of Care Services. Some services may delegate this authority to the assigned and recognised Infection Control Officer. In community care the registered nurse has the responsibility as appropriate to oversee clients who are receiving antibiotic therapy as part of their care package.
12. The nominated AMS person has the authority to review all procedures and guidelines that contain recommendations for the use of antimicrobials to ensure that the advice is evidence-based where possible and concordant with AMS principles. At Whiddon, AMS issues may be escalated to the local MAC, or the Whiddon MAC. The Clinical Governance Committee may consider any significant changes to AMS in conjunction with Whiddon's Infection Control Service Provider, Bug Control.
13. The nominated AMS person has the authority to lead at least annual audits of infections and antimicrobial prescribing practices.
14. The nominated AMS person is expected to provide reports to management and clinicians where relevant regarding prescribing safety and quality.

15. The Clinical Governance Team at Whiddon will provide overarching information by way of reports and resources to the service.

Objectives and Measures

Item	Description
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide staff with a framework to understand and promote a culture of Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)• To promote discussion and collaboration across allied health and medical staff re the use of Antimicrobials.• To provide residents, clients and representatives with more informed and timely information regarding AMS
Performance Measures	<p>Monitoring /Auditing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antimicrobial prescribing• Antimicrobial prescribing details/timeframes• Greater knowledge by residents/clients/representatives• Greater knowledge by Staff
Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to follow infection control requirements as described in the Whiddon policy and Bug Control guides and practices will rate as a Severity Rating Category 2 – which is a high risk event in the Whiddon risk framework

Grievance

Grievance with this policy should be addressed to the General Manager Quality Care and Compliance