



## Antimicrobial Stewardship

### What Do You Need to Know?

Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) are essential practices that enhance patient safety and minimize risk. Use of antimicrobial agents is an important health intervention, yet may result in unintended consequences including toxicity and the development of organisms resistant to antimicrobial agents.

Antimicrobial stewardship is an activity that includes appropriate selection, dosing, route, and duration of antimicrobial therapy. It optimizes the use of antimicrobials to achieve the best patient outcomes, reduce the risk of infections, reduce or stabilize levels of antibiotic resistance, and promote patient safety.

Antimicrobial stewardship programs in AHS are being developed to support optimization of antimicrobial use.

### What Do You Need To Do?

- ✓ Be aware that Alberta Health Services is working on an overall strategy for antimicrobial stewardship to have clear linkages to work already being done in zones and at sites.
- ✓ Practice locating the Provincial Pharmacy Services and Drug Stewardship resources on Insite
- ✓ **Hint!** Look in Our Teams/Departments.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with antimicrobial stewardship resources (e.g. Bugs & Drugs, formulary guidelines, etc.) such as those listed on Insite.
- ✓ Find the AHS Drug Stewardship SharePoint site on Insite.
- ✓ Find out what's happening in your site and area Post/share your Clostridium difficile results; look for your antimicrobial utilization reports and talk to the local Antimicrobial Stewardship site team about current activities.

### Can you answer the following questions?

- What is Antimicrobial Stewardship and why is it so important?
- What other interventions can you take to prevent Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)?  
**Hint!** Look at Infection Prevention & Control resources.
- What are some potential complications of antibiotic usage?