

Antimicrobial Resistance: Clinical Tools

Date: Monday, November 10, 2014
To: Central Zone Physicians and Emergency Departments
From: Dr. Deena Hinshaw , on behalf of the Medical Officers of Health – Central Zone

Colleagues:

November 17 to 21 has been declared Antimicrobial Stewardship Week. This is a good opportunity to think about prescribing practices in our areas. The World Health Organization's recent report on antimicrobial resistance* states:

A post-antibiotic era – in which common infections and minor injuries can kill – far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, is instead a very real possibility for the 21st Century.

This is not an era any of us want to experience. Careful selection of antimicrobial therapy is a key part of minimizing selective pressure that favours resistant bacteria. In addition, it also minimizes the risk of complications such as *Clostridium difficile* infection and associated morbidity.

Some tools that you might find helpful in your practice as you make antimicrobial choices are:

- The Central Zone antibiogram providing local resistance patterns, available at www.antibiogram.ca (works very well on smart phones)
- Tools for practice under “Initiatives” on the Antimicrobial Stewardship AHS site at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/9674.asp>, including:
 - o Carbapenem selection guidelines
 - o Meropenem dosing recommendations
 - o IV to oral antimicrobial therapy conversion guidelines

New information and resources will continue to be added to these sites as they come available. If you have feedback on these resources, or want to be involved in antimicrobial stewardship at the zone or site level, please contact me at Deena.Hinshaw@albertahealthservices.ca .

Sincerely,

Dr. Deena Hinshaw
Medical Officer of Health
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* <http://www.who.int/drugresistance/documents/surveillancereport/en/>