



New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program Call for Applications, 2021

Background

Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASPs) and efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AR) are important to curtail antimicrobial resistant infections nationwide. ASPs have been demonstrated to reduce healthcare associated infections, length of stay, inappropriate use of antimicrobials, and antimicrobial-use associated costs. Despite the obvious benefits of ASPs, they require intensive efforts to implement, maintain, and increase capacities. Through the Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program (ASRP), the NJDOH, Communicable Disease Service (CDS) will honor and recognize the successes of hospital facilities (i.e. acute care, long-term care, and outpatient healthcare facilities) across New Jersey in their stewardship efforts. Facilities have one month—**August 16, 2021**—to submit applications to be considered for the ASRP.

Returning Stewards*

Returning awardees will be eligible to either 1) reapply to maintain the antimicrobial stewardship status which they were awarded last year (i.e. **Bronze**, **Silver**, or **Gold**) or 2) level-up through our NoviSurvey application page.

Maintaining Stewardship Status:

For facilities who would like to maintain previously awarded status, we will accept a signed letter from facility leadership (e.g., chief executive officer, president, board members) that affirms antimicrobial stewardship efforts of at least the same level from the year of previous recognition.

Level Up!

For healthcare facilities that would like to advance in their stewardship status, please submit a signed letter from facility leadership (e.g., chief executive officer, president, board members) that affirms antimicrobial stewardship efforts of at least the same level from the year of previous recognition AND complete higher-tiered questions for all Seven Core Elements.

*Returning, 2020 non-tiered Antimicrobial Steward reapplicants will be automatically assigned a Bronze-tier. Maintaining status for 2020 non-tiered Antimicrobial Stewards will be set to Bronze. Those who wish to level must refer to the “Level Up!” section above and fill out Silver and/or Gold sections to be considered for higher tiers.

New Stewards

New applicants and reapplicants are eligible and encouraged to apply! This application will inquire about each facility’s integral key elements for ASPs as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and require the applicant to provide documentation that assert these efforts. Applicants will be graded on All Core elements and will receive a **Bronze**, **Silver**, or **Gold** award depending upon the meeting the Seven Core Elements.

Benefits

Applicants who have demonstrated stewardship efforts will be recognized for their achievements: displayed on the NJ Antibiotic Aware webpage, awarded a certificate of achievement, and granted a badge that can be used for media and promotional materials. Additional guidance will also be provided to assist with ASP improvements for all facilities.

Who do I call if I have questions or problems?

-Please visit our website at <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/stewardship.shtml> for updates and FAQs
-Contact the NJDOH AR Surveillance Coordinator, Gabriel Innes via email at gabriel.innes@doh.nj.gov.