Antibiotic Stewardship in Long-term Care Facilities
Lifesaving power of antibiotics

- Only effective against bacteria
- Among the most commonly prescribed drugs
- Improperly prescribed about 50% of the time
- Critical in supporting medical advances
How Antibiotic Resistance Happens

1. Lots of germs. A few are drug resistant.

2. Antibiotics kill bacteria causing the illness, as well as good bacteria protecting the body from infection.

3. The drug-resistant bacteria are now allowed to grow and take over.

4. Some bacteria give their drug-resistance to other bacteria, causing more problems.
In the United States...

- More than 2 million illnesses are caused by germs that are resistant to antibiotics and more than 23,000 die each year.
Antibiotic resistance is a global issue.
Why is antibiotic resistance important?

“Antimicrobial resistance is one of our most serious health threats. Infections from resistant bacteria are now too common, and some pathogens have even become resistant to multiple types of antibiotics. The loss of effective antibiotics will undermine our ability to fight infectious diseases.”

-Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Antibiotic resistance in long-term care facilities

Bacterial infections are common in nursing homes
Patient safety

- *Clostridium difficile* infection
- Adverse drug reactions or interactions
- Colonization
- Antibiotic-resistant infections.
What can be done about antibiotic resistance?

Long-term care facilities can safeguard patients from the harms associated with unnecessary antibiotic use, and slow the growth of antibiotic resistance, by implementing an antibiotic stewardship program.
Core Elements in Nursing Homes

- Leadership Commitment
- Accountability
- Drug Expertise
- Action
- Tracking
- Reporting
- Education
Leadership Commitment

• Write statements
• Include stewardship-related duties
• Communicate
• Create a culture
Accountability

• Medical director

• Director of nursing

• Consultant pharmacist
Drug expertise

- Work with a consultant pharmacist
- Partner with antibiotic stewardship program leads
- Develop relationships
Policy and practice

- Policies to support optimal antibiotic use
- Broad interventions to improve antibiotic use
- Pharmacy interventions to improve antibiotic use
- Infection and syndrome-specific interventions to improve antibiotic use
Tracking and reporting antibiotic use and outcomes

• Tracking how and why antibiotics are prescribed
• Tracking how often and how many antibiotics are prescribed
• Tracking adverse events
• Tracking associated costs
Education

• Address nursing staff and clinical providers
• Residents and family members
To learn more

• CDC “The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes”

• CDC “Be Antibiotics Aware” campaign

• Quality Improvement Organizations

• Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
References


