



New Jersey Department of Health – Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll (ASHR) 2024
-Frequently Asked Questions-
Presentations: 10/23/24 and 11/19/24

- 1. What is the New Jersey Department of Health’s (NJDOH) Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll (ASHR) program?**
 - The NJDOH ASHR is a newly branded program to recognize the work of organizations in their endeavors towards the appropriate, safe, and effective use of antimicrobial agents throughout the State of New Jersey and across various setting types.
- 2. When is the application period for the current cycle of recognition (ASHR)?**
 - Applications will open for submission on January 2, 2025, and remain open through January 31, 2025; please note, applicants applying for recognition are doing so for work completed in the calendar year of 2024. The referenced work should have been in effect for at least 6 months leading up to the application period.
- 3. Is the NJDOH ASHR different than the previous NJDOH Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program (ASRP)?**
 - Yes; although both programs seek to recognize the hard work of facilities in antimicrobial stewardship (AS/AMS), the ASHR has replaced ASRP, which was in effect from 2019-2023.
- 4. Why did this change from ASRP to the current ASHR occur?**
 - The former ASRP sought to recognize the work of various organizations as referenced; however, it was very extensive in terms of required resources and needed to be changed as a result. Whereas other states with lesser AS/AMS recognition programs have entirely discontinued their programs due to limited resources, the NJDOH wanted to maintain an opportunity for a recognition program in this new context.
- 5. I was previously awarded in ASRP either last year or in previous years. May I proceed with applying for “maintenance” status in the new ASHR program?**
 - No; the ASHR program is brand new and separate from any and all previous recognition programs. All application proceedings for the referenced program will begin as a new process; all interested organizations and associated staff members should apply in accordance with the new application for consideration of recognition.
- 6. Can an organization obtain recognition status if most of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Elements are met?**
 - No; the applicant must answer all questions and provide all information and documentation requested in the application, to corroborate each response. If there is a question and/or documentation required with multiple areas, all aspects must be addressed for the application to move forward and for further consideration of recognition.

7. Can an organization with multiple locations and/or setting types within the same healthcare system use one ASHR application to apply for multiple awards?

- No, each facility type (entity) must apply using a separate application.

8. What is a setting type and respective licensing standard?

- A healthcare facility is licensed as an acute care, post-acute care, or outpatient care setting in terms of licensing. It is very important to apply for recognition in accordance with the licensing of your organization. The designation of an organization's licensing status should be confirmed with administrative leadership, prior to beginning the application process. A facility and its staff are required to follow certain regulations, in accordance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations. If facility staff members apply for recognition and are deemed to have done so under the incorrect licensing status, the application will not move forward and the granting of any award will be precluded. Please note, there will be no exceptions for such occurrences and we will ask the applicant to consider reapplying next year, in accordance with the organization's licensure.

9. It seems highly efficient to have one representative from a healthcare system apply for multiple facilities, where multiple locations/buildings exist. Should my organizational staff proceed in this manner?

- No; a representative from each building should apply for their own location. This should include a separate application and supporting documentation from each, individual location and a designated representative, even if part of a healthcare network with multiple locations/buildings. The computer on which the application is initiated and completed should remain the same throughout the entire application process, in order to avoid any technical issues or problems. In addition, cache, cookies, memory, and similar features should not be cleared for the same reasons. Deviating from this practice will cause applications to get "overwritten" or otherwise lost and preclude the granting of an award. Please note, there will be no exceptions for such occurrences and we will ask the applicant to consider reapplying next year.

10. What should I do if I apply for ASHR and then my facility is subject to a change in name?

- We have requested that all applicants fill out their facility names EXACTLY as they would like them to appear on award recognition, should an award be granted; if a name change to a facility occurs, this should be made known to NJDOH staff immediately by sending a message to abxaware@nj.doh.gov. The message should include the former (original) name under which the application was made and the new name of the facility, EXACTLY as it should appear on award recognition, should an award be granted.

11. How long should the CDC Core Elements and related practices be in place before an organization considers pursuing an ASHR award, regardless of level?

- An organization should have ALL aspects of each core element in place for 6-12 months, PRIOR to applying for an ASHR award and be able to provide proof and documentation to that effect.

12. What is the future of organizations having previously attained award recognition in ASHR?

- The application process will begin as a new one and applicants will be required to apply for recognition with a new application in subsequent years. It is also important to note that the requirements for recognition are likely to change each year, as antimicrobial stewardship (AS/AMS) components and practices are constantly evolving and subject to the direction and guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

13. Should I always use the “save and continue” feature, when updating my application?

- Yes, this is the recommended practice, for the purpose of data being retained and tracked; after an application is complete, the applicant should continue advancing through all the screens and press the “Submit” button.

14. Does the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) provide a confirmation receipt after receiving an ASHR application?

- Yes; this feature was present in the previous recognition program; also, there are options to view, print, and amend submitted application(s), up until the application deadline. Please remember to adhere to the recommendations regarding the avoidance of clearing of computer memory and similar features, to avoid any technical difficulties.

15. How can I learn more about the CDC Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship for my setting type?

- Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for much more comprehensive and detailed information, in accordance with your facility’s setting type (and as per your facility’s licensure, as referenced).

16. If I submit an application that is incomplete or incorrect, will I receive feedback from the staff at NJDOH with how to correct it, so that I can get recognition?

- No; due to the volume of applications received, in combination with limited resources, we are not able to follow-up with applicants for whom applications are incomplete or otherwise do not meet CDC Core Element requirements.

17. Which ASHR application should be used by an assisted-living facility (ALF) to apply for recognition?

- There is not a category within our recognition program to award an assisted-living facility for work done in stewardship; in such cases, the staff at the referenced facility should encourage their individual, participating providers (prescribers) to apply for recognition on an individual, basis in the outpatient setting. We are not able to issue an award to a facility as a result of work conducted by external individuals and/or organizations. We regret any current or past inconveniences and confusion as a result of this matter.

18. When do you expect award status announcements to be made?

- Our expectation and goal is for announcements to be made in early Spring of 2025, subject to change and via an e-mail forum; in addition, recognized facilities will be posted by setting type (Acute Care, Post-Acute Care, and Outpatient) online, as there will not be a ceremony associated with the recognition process.