

HEALTH UPDATE



Public Health
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REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

Alert categories:
Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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November 21,
2017

Tools for healthcare providers to combat antibiotic resistance



Introduction

According to the CDC, each year in the United States, at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections.

To emphasize the threat of antibiotic resistance and the need to use antibiotics wisely, Governor Inslee issued a [proclamation](#) declaring Nov 13-17, 2017 Antibiotic Awareness Week. This is part of a national and international effort to improve the use of antibiotics to optimize patient outcomes, improve population health, save money, and preserve the effectiveness of these lifesaving medications.

While antibiotic awareness week has passed, we continue to face challenges with antibiotic use. The purpose of this update is to share some tools and resources the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and partners developed to improve antibiotic use and prevent antibiotic resistance in Washington.

For Ambulatory Clinics

The newly released [Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for Ambulatory Settings](#) includes:

- [JumpStart Stewardship implementation guide](#) for establishing a stewardship program in an ambulatory clinic
- [Antimicrobial Stewardship in Ambulatory Settings](#) online educational module for prescribers, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, featuring clinical cases commonly encountered in ambulatory settings
- Washington State Clinical Practice Guidelines for [Acute Otitis Media](#), [Acute Uncomplicated Bronchitis](#), [Acute Uncomplicated Sinusitis in Adults](#), [Acute Uncomplicated Sinusitis in Children](#), and [Pharyngitis](#)
- Antibiotic stewardship posters you can place for patients to see in [waiting](#) and [exam](#) rooms (you can personalize these posters for your setting)
- Qualis Health, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Washington State, also has some [useful tools](#).

For Nursing Homes

DOH provides the following resources to help long-term care settings meet new Medicare rules regarding antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention expertise:

- [JumpStart Stewardship implementation guide](#) for establishing a stewardship program in a nursing home
- EQuIP for Long Term Care webinar series focusing on stewardship in 2017 and infection prevention in 2018. The registration link for this series is <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5879017588924100354>

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this listserv, email: Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov.

- Small Group Collaborative of nursing homes working together to implement a quality improvement project to improve assessment, communication, diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections in residents. Contact Marisa D'Angeli at marisa.dangeli@DOH.wa.gov for more information

For Hospitals

DOH supports stewardship in hospitals with:

- Financial support for critical access and other small hospitals to participate in the University of [Washington Tele-Antimicrobial Stewardship Program \(UW-TASP\)](#). TASP offers weekly video conferences with UW physicians, pharmacists, and clinical microbiologists and outlying hospitals, featuring clinical didactics, antimicrobial stewardship (AS) policies and procedures, and case consultations drawn from the community. Hospitals interested in TASP should contact Natalia Paz at nmp@uw.edu
- [JumpStart Stewardship implementation guide](#) for establishing a stewardship program in a small, rural hospital

For Animal Healthcare Providers

To promote wise antibiotic use in animals, DOH:

- Helped develop a [brochure on antibiotic stewardship for veterinarians](#)
- Is hosting a One Health Antibiotic Stewardship Summit in April 2018. This summit will bring together experts and stakeholders for education and collaboration to reduce antibiotic-associated harms across human, animal and environmental health. For more information, contact Kelly Kauber at Kelly.kauber@DOH.wa.gov

If you have suggestions for how we can improve antibiotic use in Washington, please contact your local health department:

LHJ	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health:	(360) 397-8182	(360) 397-8080
Cowlitz County Health Department:	(360) 414-5599	(360) 425-7531
Skamania County Community Health:	(509) 427-3850	(509) 427-0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services:	(360) 795-6207	(360) 795-6143

Thank you for your partnership.