

ADVISORY

TITLE	Antimicrobial stewardship
Advisory number	AS18/08
Version number	1.0
TRIM number	D18-28904
Publication date	October 2018
Replaces	Advisory A17/01 of the NSQHS Standards (first edition)
Compliance with this advisory	It is mandatory for approved accrediting agencies to implement this Advisory
Information in this advisory applies to	All approved accrediting agencies All health service organisations
Key relationship	NSQHS Standards (second edition): Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard, Actions 3.15 and 3.16.
Attachment	n/a
Notes	<p>Links with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard • Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infection • Clinical care standard indicators: antimicrobial stewardship • Approaches to surgical site infection surveillance for acute care settings in Australia • Therapeutic Guidelines: antibiotic • National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship – National Antimicrobial Prescribing Surveys (NAPS) • National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP) <p>Update relates to the NSQHS Standards (second edition)</p>
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To be reviewed	December 2020

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



ADVISORY

AS18/08: Antimicrobial stewardship

PURPOSE:

To update accrediting agencies of health service organisations' requirements for the Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-associated Infection Standard in the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standard (second edition) relating to antimicrobial stewardship, specifically in relation to surgical prophylaxis.

ISSUE:

The Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-associated Infection Standard criterion on Antimicrobial Stewardship requires that all health service organisations have an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) program in place. The relevant section of the NSQHS Standards Guide for hospitals, Guide for day procedure services, and Guide for Multi-Purpose Services and small hospitals sets out the key tasks required for organisations to implement an AMS program, and specifies actions that incorporate surgical prophylaxis.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has also developed a Clinical Care Standard that describes the care a patient should receive for optimal treatment with antibiotics.

Quality statement 9 of the [Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard](#)¹ requires that if a patient having surgery requires prophylactic antibiotics, the prescription is made in accordance with the current [Therapeutic Guidelines: antibiotic](#)² (or local antibiotic formulary) and takes into consideration the patient's clinical condition. For health service organisations, this means supporting clinicians to provide appropriate prophylactic antimicrobial therapy for patients undergoing surgery to reduce the risk of surgical site infection.³

Action 3.15.d of the Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard requires health service organisations to incorporate the core elements, recommendations and principles from the current Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard in their AMS program.

¹ Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard. Sydney: ACSQHC, 2014.

² Antibiotic Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines Antibiotic. Version 15. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd; 2014

³ World Health Organization. Global Guidelines for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection. WHO. Geneva 2016

Successive National Antimicrobial Prescribing Surveys from 2013 to 2017⁴ show sustained levels of inappropriate prescribing of antimicrobials for surgical prophylaxis in relation to duration, choice of agent and indication. There has been a reduction in the proportion of surgical prophylaxis prescriptions prescribed for longer than 24 hours from 41.8% in 2013 to 30.5% in 2017. The target is 5%.

REQUIREMENTS:

Health service organisations should ensure surgical prophylaxis is included and addressed as part of their AMS program.

To demonstrate that the requirement is met, organisations can monitor their performance using the indicators for quality statements 6 and 9 of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard⁵:

- Indicator 6a: Rate of documentation of clinical reason (or indication) for prescribing antibiotics
- Indicator 9a: Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in accordance with guidelines
- Indicator 9b: Timely administration of prophylactic antibiotics prior to surgery
- Indicator 9c: Cessation of prophylactic antibiotics after surgery.

Monitoring of antimicrobial usage and appropriateness of prescribing should inform the ongoing risk assessment for the AMS program. Participation in the [National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey \(NAPS\)](#)⁶ and the [National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program \(NAUSP\)](#)⁷ are options for monitoring antimicrobial usage and appropriateness of prescribing.

The organisation should be able to demonstrate evidence of action taken in response to issues identified as a result of monitoring as required by action 3.16 of the Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard.

Accrediting agencies are to ensure that within three months of the release of this Advisory, to rate actions in the antimicrobial stewardship criterion of the Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-associated Infections Standard as satisfactorily met, the health service organisation has to include and address surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis as part of its antimicrobial stewardship program.

Evidence of this would include evidence of monitoring antimicrobial use in relation to surgical prophylaxis and taking action in response to issues identified.

Compliance with this Advisory must be assessed in the context of all actions in the Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard Criterion:

- Clinical governance and quality improvement to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections, and support antimicrobial stewardship
- Antimicrobial stewardship.

⁴ National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (2016). *Antimicrobial Prescribing Practice in Australian Hospitals Results of the 2017 National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey* ACSQHC, Sydney.

⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. METeOR indicator specifications <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/612216>. Accessed 18 May 2017

⁶ <https://www.naps.org.au/>

⁷ <http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/nausp>