



ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

Antimicrobial Stewardship reduces inappropriate use of antibiotics, improves patient outcomes and can help to reduce antimicrobial resistance.

30%

of antibiotics prescribed in hospitals are used inappropriately.*



Antimicrobial-resistant infections are becoming more common



Australia is one of the highest users of antibiotics in the developed world, with around 22 million prescriptions written every year in primary care. Some of this use undoubtedly drives resistance.



Since the introduction of hand hygiene initiatives, there has been a decline in MRSA rates in hospitals, however, the incidence of community-strains of MRSA has increased from 5% to 12% since 2000.



Right antibiotic, right dose, right time

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard describes the care patients should be offered for a bacterial infection:



Antibiotics are prescribed based on therapeutic guidelines or local formulary.



Samples are taken before starting antibiotic treatment, wherever possible.



Antibiotic treatment is reviewed once microbiology results are available.



Reason, antibiotic name, dose, route of administration and review date are documented in the patient's health record.



Patients are educated about the antibiotic that they have been prescribed.

*NAPS 2013, 151 hospitals.