



The goal of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard is to ensure that a patient with a bacterial infection receives optimal treatment with antibiotics. This means that patients are offered the right antibiotic to treat their condition, the right dose, the right route, at the right time and for the right duration. This should be based on accurate assessment and timely review as to lessen the risk of adverse effects and reduce the emergence of antibiotic resistance.

UNDER THIS CLINICAL CARE STANDARD



A patient with a life-threatening condition due to a suspected bacterial infection receives prompt antibiotic treatment without waiting for the results of investigations.



A patient with a suspected bacterial infection has samples taken for microbiology testing as clinically indicated, preferably before starting antibiotic treatment.



A patient with a suspected infection, and/or their carer, receives information on their health condition and treatment options in a format and language that they can understand.



When a patient is prescribed antibiotics, whether empirical or directed, this is done in accordance with the current version of the *Therapeutic Guidelines* (or local antibiotic formulary). This is also guided by the patient's clinical condition and/or the results of microbiology testing.



When a patient is prescribed antibiotics, information about when, how and for how long to take them, as well as potential side effects and a review plan, is discussed with the patient and/or their carer.



When a patient is prescribed antibiotics, the reason, drug name, dose, route of administration, intended duration and review plan is documented in the patient's health record.



A patient who is treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics has the treatment reviewed and, if indicated, switched to treatment with a narrow-spectrum antibiotic. This is guided by the patient's clinical condition and the results of microbiology tests.



If investigations are conducted for a suspected bacterial infection, the responsible clinician reviews these results in a timely manner (within 24 hours of results being available) and antibiotic therapy is adjusted taking into account the patient's clinical condition and investigation results.



If a patient having surgery requires prophylactic antibiotics, the prescription is made in accordance with the current *Therapeutic Guidelines* (or local antibiotic formulary), and takes into consideration the patient's clinical condition.

More information on the Clinical Care Standards program is available from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care website at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/ccs.