



ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP CLINICAL CARE STANDARD

WHAT IS ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP



Antimicrobials are medicines used to treat and prevent infections.

Antimicrobial stewardship are statements that describe the care that you can expect to receive before and after starting medicines for infections.



LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

Examples of serious life threatening infections

- Sepsis (when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs)
- Meningitis (an infection of the tissues lining the brain)
- Necrotising Fasciitis (a serious infection from a flesh eating bacteria).

If you are unwell with a serious infection, you will be given appropriate medicine without delay.

ADVERSE REACTIONS TO ANTIMICROBIALS

Adverse Reactions are any unwanted effect of a medicine. Many adverse reactions are expected side effects of medicines. An allergic reaction is one type of adverse reaction.

If you have had an unwanted response to a medicine used to treat an infection, talk to your clinician.

It is important to update your healthcare record with any information regarding adverse reactions to medications.

USE OF GUIDELINES



If you are prescribed a medicine for an infection, your clinician will discuss which medicine is best for you.

Your clinician should also consider any allergies and other health conditions you may have, as well as the cause of your infection.



DOCUMENTATION



Your Healthcare record contains information about your antimicrobial therapy. This includes information on:

- The medicines you have been prescribed
- Why they were prescribed and by whom
- When they were prescribed
- The dose
- What form of the medication you use
- How often you use them
- How long to use them for
- Any plans to review your therapy



PATIENT INFORMATION AND SHARED DECISION MAKING

If you have an infection, or are at risk of developing one, Your clinician will talk to you about your treatment options. This may mean taking medicines. Your clinician will explain the possible benefits and harms that may occur.

Your clinician will give you directions on how to take any medicines prescribed. Be sure to follow their instructions correctly and to ask any questions you may have.

Some medicines may have side effects. understanding the possible side effects can help you know what to expect.

Some other things that you need to know about the antimicrobial medicine are:

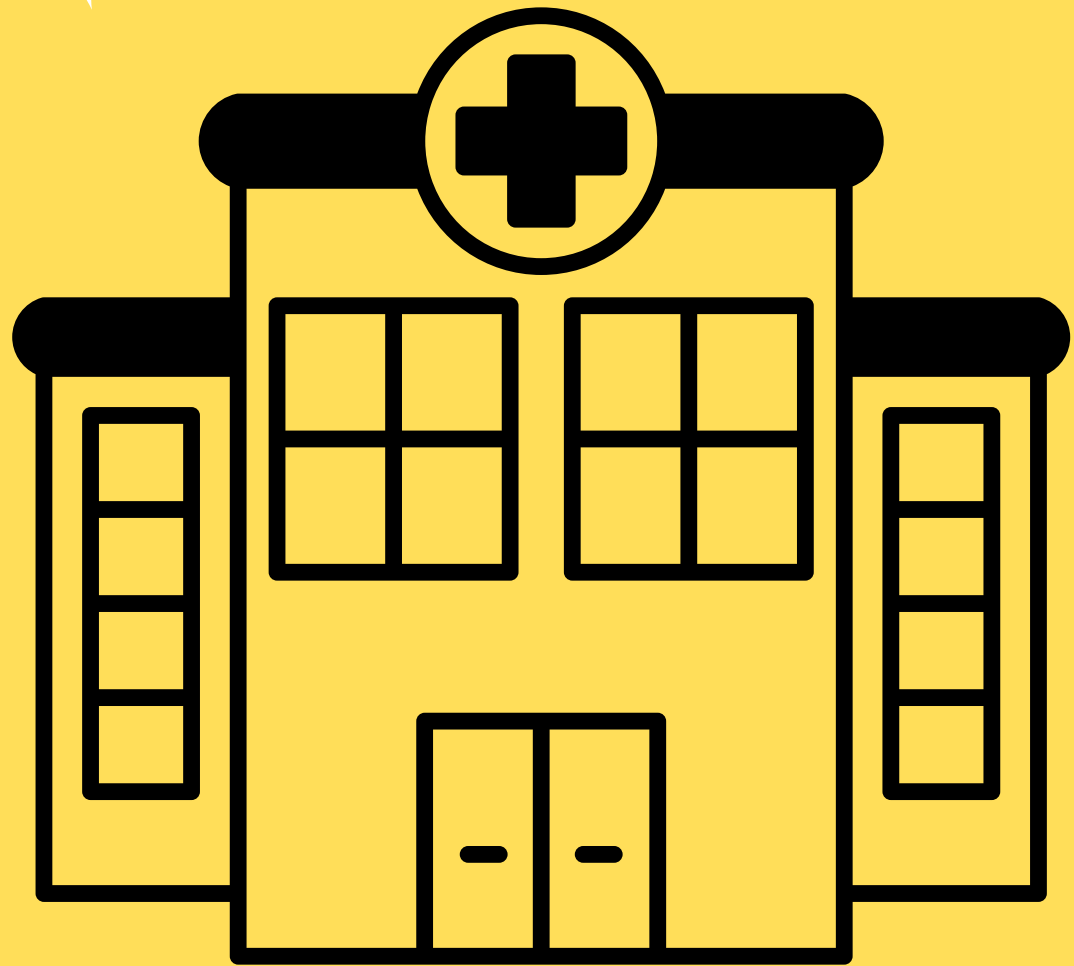
- When to start the medicine
- How many times a day to take, use or apply the medicine.
- Whether to take tablets or capsules with food or on an empty stomach
- How the medicine may interact with other medicines you use
- Potential side effects
- Signs or symptoms of when to seek urgent care, depending on the type or risk of infection
- When to stop the medicine

You may need another appointment with your clinician to check that the medicine is working

SURGICAL AND PROCEDURAL PROPHYLAXIS

Before a surgical procedure, medicines may be given to you to reduce the risk of an infection. The prescription will be based on national or local recommendations.

After having a surgical procedure, antimicrobials are not usually needed unless you have an infection.



REVIEW OF THERAPY

If you are prescribed a medicine for an infection your clinician should regularly check that you still need it.

When your infection has improved it may be appropriate to stop or change how you use this medicine.

If the cause of your infection is unclear, you may be prescribed a medicine that works against different types of infections. You may need to have tests to check if the medicine is working. Depending on the test results, your treatment may need to continue, change or stop.

FOR MORE INFO

This Consumer Guide, the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard, and other information for consumers can be downloaded from www.safetyandquality.gov.au/ams-ccs.