

Policy Applies to:

This policy aims to support anti-microbial stewardship of Credentialed Specialists and clinical staff at Mercy Hospital.

Related Standards:

- Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard (NZS 8134:2021)
- EQulP criterion 1. 5. 2 Infection Control

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure individual patients and the community benefit from appropriate antimicrobial use.

The objective of anti-microbial stewardship is to ensure the best clinical outcome for the treatment or prevention of infection, with minimal toxicity to the patient and minimal impact on subsequent resistance development.

Cultural Considerations:

Cultural Considerations reviewed and no cultural considerations identified.

Definitions:

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS)

AMS is a defined process to assist and support clinicians with decisions regarding the optimal selection, dose and duration of an antimicrobial agent. Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is a systematic approach to optimising use of antimicrobials to reduce inappropriate use, improve patient outcomes and reduce adverse consequences of antimicrobials (including antimicrobial resistance, secondary infections (e.g. *Clostridioides difficile*), toxicity and unnecessary costs).

The NZ Formulary

An independent resource providing electronic point-of-care information for prescribers as well as supplementary guidance on best practices. The Formulary links to the current BPAC Antibiotics Guide for primary care, enabling prescribers to select 'an effective agent at the correct dose with the narrowest spectrum, fewest adverse effects and lowest cost'.

Objective:

- Promote the appropriate use of antibiotics both prophylactically and in the treatment of infections.
- Provide access to information on recommended antimicrobial prescribing agents to Credentialed Specialists and nursing staff.
- Report on prescribing practices against HQSC quality markers for best practice to specialists and external monitoring agencies.
- Provide support and education on appropriate antimicrobial usage.

Implementation:

- An electronic copy of the NZ Formulary (www.nzformulary.org) is available to Credentialed Specialists in all clinical areas. The Formulary is updated when new information is released.
- Specialist advice on antimicrobial therapy is able to be accessed through the Clinical Microbiologists of Awanui Laboratories.
- Credentialed specialist Surgical Preferences are documented and updated.
- Surveillance monitoring of designated surgical antibiotic prescribing parameters (as per the Infection Control auditing plan).
- Medication Committee monitors and reports on prescribing practices and informs stakeholders on updated and new prescribing information.
- Patients are assessed for medication allergies Alerts placed on patient files when patients have an antibiotic allergy. Credentialed Specialist records antibiotic allergy on admission letter. Allergies recorded on medication charts and pre-operative checklist.
- Antimicrobial Awareness week education is promoted annually to specialists, staff, patients and visitors.
- Patients are screened by Credentialed Specialist rooms for Multi Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) and testing for MDRO completed and reported prior to surgery to ensure antimicrobials are appropriate for the patient.
- Awanui Clinical Microbiologists are available for antimicrobial prophylaxis and treatment advice, and member of Infection Prevention and Control Committee.

Evaluation

- Infection Prevention and Control Nurse audits and reports on surveillance details of antimicrobial practices against best practice parameters (choice, dose, timing, duration).
- Antimicrobial surveillance data reported to Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) (type, dose, timing, duration) and results reported to Infection Prevention and Control Committee, Medications Committee and Credentialed Specialists.
- Medication audit and Medicines Committee minutes reports on prescribing standards and medicine related incident reports.
- Reported patient infections are reviewed for antibiotic prescribing against best practice guidelines.
- Infection Prevention Control bi-monthly reporting.

Associated Documents

- Appendix One - Principles of Antimicrobial Stewardship.

External

- New Zealand Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan, Ministry of Health, August 2017.
- Antimicrobial Resistance: New Zealand's current situation and identified areas for action, Ministry of Health & Ministry for Primary Industries, March 2017.
- Antimicrobial stewardship programmes in healthcare facilities in low- and middle-income countries. A practical toolkit. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019.
- <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/infection-prevention-and-control/projects/surgical-site-infection-improvement/resources/>, Surgical Site Infection Improvement Programme, HQSC.
- Antimicrobial Stewardship in New Zealand, Imogen Thompson, May 2013.
- Australian Council of Healthcare Standards Clinical Indicator Programme.
- NZ Formulary.

Internal

- Surveillance Policy
- MDRO Policy
- IV Link Group
- Surgical Preferences
- Medicines Management Audit Tool
- Medicines Management Committee
- Infection Control Annual Plan
- Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- Pre admissions Electronic Alert System, Clinical Services Work Manual
- Patient admission assessment form
- Adverse Reactions to Medication Policy