

## **Antimicrobial Stewardship in Community Nursing**

### **POLICY**

Westmont Community Care recognises that inappropriate and overuse of antimicrobials contributes to the emergence of resistant bacteria and causes consumers harm.

Westmont commits to helping safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobials through infection prevention and control, education and involvement in antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) activities.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **Clinical Governance**

The Director of Community Care will use clinical governance systems to improve the safety and quality of care for consumers. This includes:

- Prioritising and promoting AMS as a strategic safety and quality goal of Westmont
- Ensuring that the clinical governance framework, and quality improvement systems and processes relating to AMS are robust, and that the AMS is incorporated into strategic planning
- Participating in the AMS committee and program
- Supporting AMS and communicating to staff why appropriate antimicrobial use is a priority
- Providing appropriate resources for the AMS team and supporting them to operate within the clinical governance framework
- Scheduling time to review progress and provide advice
- Supporting the AMS team in promoting accountable clinical practice to staff
- Ensuring nurses receive appropriate orientation, and ongoing education and training regarding AMS
- Monitoring both the type and frequency of education to ensure all staff are provided with education and training that will enable them to deliver safe care
- Ensuring that consumers receive appropriate information regarding AMS
- Engaging a senior nurse to champion and support the AMS program
- Reviewing the Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (acNAPS)
- Reporting the outcomes of audits and surveys, and action plans to the CEO, the Board, staff and consumers (where relevant)

#### **Role of Nurses**

Nurses will only provide clinical care within their scope of practice.

Nursing practice will involve consumer assessment, the development and implementation of consumer care plans, and evaluations of outcomes.

Nursing activities will include:

- Recognising signs of sepsis
- Assessing infection risk and making decisions about precautions to be put in place
- Implementing standard and transmission-based precautions and practices to prevent infection
- Administering antimicrobials safely
- Monitoring consumer responses
- Educating consumers and/or their carers about safe and appropriate medication use in line with their scope of practice
- Involving consumers and/or their carers in their care and decisions about appropriate antimicrobial use in line with their scope of practice

Nurses will work in line with the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standards to ensure that a consumer with a bacterial infection receives optimal treatment with antibiotics. This includes:

- Receiving prompt antibiotic treatment
- Taking samples as clinically indicated
- Providing information to the consumer and/or carer on their condition and treatment
- Ensuring prescribed antibiotics are in accordance with the current version of the Therapeutic Guidelines
- Providing information on the prescribed antibiotics
- Ensuring prescribed antibiotics is documented in the consumers health record
- Reviewing treatment and changing treatment if necessary
- Reviewing microbiology testing in a timely manner

Nurses will maintain current knowledge of the Australian Therapeutic Guidelines.

## Measurement and Evaluation

Westmont will track and report antimicrobial management and outcomes.

Measurement will include regular audits as part of the Continuous Quality Improvement Plan and on an intermittent basis, including surveys or questionnaires, Feedback Forms and Infection Reports. Measurement will include improved consumer outcomes and improved consumer safety.

Outcomes of the data collection will be reviewed and reported. Action plans will be developed where opportunities of improvement are identified.

## AMS Model Formulary

A formulary is a list of medicines, including antimicrobial agents, that has been approved by an authority for use within an organisation, network or nationally. Formulary systems establish rules governing medicine use.

In the community, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme act as the formulary. It will be the responsibility of the consumers doctor and pharmacist to maintain the formulary and monitor the consumers safety, disease state complexity, antimicrobial resistance, as well as best practice prescribing and public health interests.

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