

Appendix A: Antibiotic Stewardship Interview Questions

Interviewer: Antibiotic stewardship refers to the judicious use of antibiotics, and is a critical component of reducing antibiotic resistance. Components of antibiotic stewardship involve drug expertise, evaluating ongoing antibiotic treatment, monitoring prescribing practices, and reporting information on antibiotic use and resistance.

Your responses will be recorded with a voice recorder and transcribed, but the responses will be de-identified in any data set and your identity will be kept confidential.

Person

1. How do you define antibiotic stewardship?
2. What do you think of antibiotic stewardship as an infectious disease prevention strategy?
3. Describe your level of interaction working with infectious disease specialists at your hospital.
4. Physician/Nurse
 - a. Describe your work with pharmacists in your hospital.
 - i. If poor availability/they don't work with pharmacists: What factors limit their availability to you?
 - ii. How do you work with pharmacists on specific patients?
 - iii. In an ideal situation, what would be different about how you work with the pharmacists?
 - b. Tell me about your workload.
 - i. How does your workload impact your ability to complete your job responsibilities?
5. All clinicians: Describe employee turnover on your ward

Organization

1. Describe your experience regarding antimicrobial stewardship education in your facility.
 - a. What is your view of these trainings (how likely are you to attend? Do you apply the information to your practice? Who attends?)?
2. What do you hear about antimicrobial stewardship at work?
3. Describe a time a new policy was implemented on your ward/in your lab.
 - a. What challenges were encountered? What went well? How did this compare to other times when new policies were implemented?
 - b. How were staff involved in the development of the new policy? How are they typically involved in policy development?
4. Tell me about your interactions with people involved in the antibiotic stewardship program.
 - a. What types of things do you collaborate on/communicate about?
 - b. How could your interactions be improved?
5. What is your sense of how hospital leaders/management are involved in antibiotic stewardship efforts in your ward/lab?

6. All clinicians: How could antibiotic prescribing be improved in your facility? Tell me about empiric prescribing at your hospital. What factors should be considered when prescribing an antibiotic if the cause of illness is not yet known?

Tasks

1. Lab Staff
 - a. Describe how you create an antibiogram.
 - i. How does creating an antibiogram fit in with your other job responsibilities?
 - ii. How often do you update the antibiogram?
 - iii. What is the scope of the antibiogram?
2. Nurses
 - a. What antibiotic stewardship practices are you responsible for on your ward?
 - b. How often do you review medications? Describe your review process.
 - c. What do you do when antibiotic usage seems questionable? Do you or your team decide together?
 - d. Are routine audits of antibiotic use conducted on your ward?
3. Pharmacists
 - a. What is your process when an antibiotic is ordered?
 - i. What are your selection review practices? Describe your collaboration with physicians.
 - ii. Describe your antibiogram use, including successes and challenges. How frequently is it updated?
4. Physicians
 - a. Describe your antibiotic selection process, including any guidelines you may use in making your decision.
 - i. Describe your antibiogram use, including successes and challenges. How frequently is it updated?
 - ii. How often are those guidelines adhered to in your workplace? If infrequently, what are the barriers to adherence?
 - b. Describe your review of antibiotic selection, including after the drug has been prescribed and after you have obtained culture results.
5. All clinicians: Where do you store information on antibiotic use (dosage, duration, indication)?
6. All clinicians: How often/how many cases of treatment failure related to resistance have you seen?
7. All staff: Evaluate the effect of your workload on your ability to implement antibiotic stewardship activities.
8. Describe what (if any) antibiotic resistance has had on your practice.
9. Describe what (if any) antibiotic resistance has had on your community.
10. What do you think would be the most useful strategies to help decrease antibiotic use?

Tools and Technology

1. All clinicians: How do you determine a patient's antibiotic use status?

- a. What resources or tools do you use to decide which antibiotic is most appropriate for a patient?
2. Physicians and maybe pharmacists:
 - a. How does the lab impact your antibiotic prescribing?
3. Lab staff: What changes could be made to your lab that would help you to more effectively support antibiotic prescribing/stewardship at your hospital?

Environment

What posters, signs, or other visual cues promoting good antibiotic prescribing are present in your hospital? Where are they located? Which ones do you notice most?

Final: Is there anything I haven't asked you about antibiotic stewardship that you think is important for me to know?