

Nurses and AMS activities

Core nursing activities that support /form part of AMS

Patient management plans

- Assess patient's risk of both acquiring and transmitting an infection.
- Complete nursing care plans or notes that accurately detail infection signs and symptoms.
- Facilitate efficient discharge planning.
- Assess patients' suitability for Hospital in the Home programs.

Infection Control and Prevention (including microbiology)

- Implement standard and transmission precautions (for example, hand hygiene).
- Correctly collect microbiological specimens if clinical need is clearly indicated.
- Ensure timely transfer of microbiological specimens to laboratories to maintain specimen quality.
- Review and recognise when treatment is not in line with microbiological results.

Medication (antimicrobial) management

- Question suboptimal antimicrobial management and documentation
- Recognise when patients are able to tolerate oral intake and could change from IV to oral antimicrobials
- Ensure timely administration of antimicrobials and follow up on missed doses.
- As applicable, administer antimicrobials at the right rate.
- Undertake timely therapeutic drug monitoring to ensure antibiotics that perform optimally within a specific therapeutic level are in-line with recommended guidance.
- Monitor the patient to ensure the antimicrobial has the intended effect.
- Recognise antimicrobial allergies and side effects.
- Support the use of standardised medication charts that document for each prescribed antimicrobial, its generic name, dose, time, route, reason for administration, review and stop date.
- Accurately and clearly document the administration of any antimicrobials
- Correctly dispose of unused antimicrobials.

Collaboration

- Participate in (AMS) ward rounds.
- Participate in the development of guidelines or policies that detail the use of medications.
- Suggest antimicrobial choices to medical staff (junior and locum doctors included) in line with guideline recommendations
- Liaise between (offsite) doctors, microbiologists, pharmacists, patients/residents and their families.

Education

- Provide patient education about antimicrobials, especially prior to discharge.
- Educate (new) colleagues about the appropriate use of antimicrobials, especially in relation to a particular specialist area.
- Encourage patients and other colleagues to question suboptimal antimicrobial management and documentation.

Additional activities that support/form part of AMS

Surveillance (Healthcare infections and antimicrobial use)

- Audit medical records and collect data.
- Analyse data and present in easy to understand formats (tables, graphs etc)
- Feedback analysed data to the team (administrators and prescribers included).
- Instigate as necessary (and review) new interventions.