



Glossary

Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care

2018

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Term	Definition
acquired resistance (in bacteria)	A reduction in susceptibility to antimicrobials. This may be through the bacterium's own genes mutating, or by acquiring genes that encode resistance from other bacteria. ¹
advance care plan	A plan that states preferences about health and personal care, and preferred health outcomes. An advance care planning discussion will often result in an advance care plan. Plans should be made on the person's behalf and use a person-centred approach to guide decisions about care. ²
adverse drug reaction	A response to a medicine that is noxious and unintended, and occurs at doses normally used or tested in humans for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of disease, or for the modification of physiological function. An allergy is a type of adverse drug reaction. ²
adverse event	An incident that results, or could have resulted, in harm to a patient or consumer. A near miss is a type of adverse event. ²
aged care home	A special-purpose facility that provides accommodation and other types of support – including assistance with day-to-day living, intensive forms of care and assistance towards independent living – to frail and aged residents. ¹
algorithm (as in clinical or treatment algorithm)	A flow chart that outlines a sequence of clinical decisions that can be used for guiding patient care and for teaching clinical decision-making. ³
allergen	A substance that causes an allergic reaction. Typical allergens include some medicines, some foods and latex. ⁴ An allergen may be encountered through inhalation, ingestion, injection or contact with skin. ² See also <i>allergy or allergic reaction</i>
allergy or allergic reaction	Allergy occurs when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that are harmless for most people. These substances are known as allergens and are found in dust mites, pets, pollen, insects, ticks, moulds, foods and some medicines. ⁴
antibiogram	Table of antimicrobial susceptibilities. These are used to inform local empirical antimicrobial recommendations and formulary management. ⁵
antibiotic	A substance that kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria. ⁶
antimicrobial	A substance that inhibits or destroys bacteria, parasites, viruses or fungi, and can be safely administered to humans or animals. Used when broadly referring to agents used to treat or prevent infections caused by microorganisms, the term embraces antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral and antiparasitic agents. ¹
antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	The failure of an antimicrobial to inhibit a microorganism at the antimicrobial concentrations usually achieved over time with standard dosing regimens. ²
audit (clinical)	A systematic review of clinical care, assessed against a predetermined set of criteria. ²
AURA	Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia
bacteraemia	A bacterial infection of the blood or the lymph system. ⁶
bloodstream infection	The presence of live pathogens in the blood, causing an infection. ⁶

Term	Definition
broad-spectrum antimicrobial	An antimicrobial that kills or inhibits a wide range of organisms.
care bundle	A set of evidence-based practices that have been shown to improve outcomes when performed collectively. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement in the United States developed the concept to improve the care process and patient outcomes. ⁶
care pathway	A complex intervention that supports mutual decision-making and organisation of care processes for a well-defined group of patients during a well-defined period. ²
carer	A person who provides personal care, support and assistance to another individual who needs it because they have a disability, medical condition (such as a terminal or chronic illness) or mental illness, or they are frail or aged. An individual is not a carer merely because they are a spouse, a de facto partner, a parent, a child, or a relative or guardian of an individual, or live with an individual who requires care. A person is not considered a carer if they are paid, a volunteer for an organisation, or caring as part of a training or education program. ²
clinical care standards	A series of quality statements that describe the care patients should be offered by clinicians and health services for a specific clinical condition or defined clinical pathway in line with current best evidence. ⁷ The clinical care standards were developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.
clinical guideline	Evidence-based statement that includes recommendations intended to optimise patient care and help clinicians to make decisions about the appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. In this publication, clinical guidelines may also be referred to as clinical practice guidelines. ⁸
clinical handover	The transfer of professional responsibility and accountability for some or all aspects of care for a patient, or group of patients, to another person or professional group on a temporary or permanent basis. ²
clinical pathway	A document outlining a standardised, evidence-based multidisciplinary management plan, which identifies the appropriate sequence of clinical interventions, time frames, milestones and expected outcomes for a homogenous patient group. ⁹
clinical procedure	For the purposes of this publication, a clinical procedure is an act of care for a patient where there is a risk of direct introduction of a pathogen to the patient. ¹⁰
clinician	For the purposes of this publication, the term clinician includes nurses, midwives, medical practitioners, allied health professionals, scientists and other individuals delivering health care, including students who provide health care under supervision.
colonisation	The sustained presence of replicating infectious microorganisms on or in the body, without producing an immune response or disease. ¹⁰
consumer	A person who has used, or may potentially use, health services, or is a carer for a patient using health services. A healthcare consumer may act as a consumer representative to provide a consumer perspective, contribute consumer experiences, advocate for the interests of current and potential consumers, and take part in decision-making processes. ²
context	The influences that may be external (such as the prevailing economic, social, political environment) or internal to the organisation under study. Examples are the organisation's resources, capabilities, structure, culture and politics. ¹¹

Term	Definition
credentialing	The formal process used by a health service organisation to verify the qualifications, experience, professional standing, competencies and other relevant professional attributes of clinicians. Credentialing is used so that an organisation can form a view about the clinician's competence, performance and professional suitability to provide safe, high-quality healthcare services within specific organisational environments. ²
data mining	The analysis of large datasets to discover patterns and use those patterns to forecast or predict the likelihood of future events. ¹²
decision support tools	Tools that can help clinicians and consumers to draw on available evidence when making clinical decisions. The tools may be designed to, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable shared decision making (for example, decision aids) • Provide some of the information needed for some components of the shared decision-making process (for example, risk calculators, evidence summaries) • Provide ways of initiating and structuring conversations about health decisions (for example, communication frameworks, question prompt lists).² See also <i>shared decision making</i>
defined daily dose (DDD)	The average dose per day of a medicine to treat the main indication for an average adult patient, as defined by the World Health Organization. ¹
drug use evaluation	A system of continuous, systematic, criteria-based drug evaluation that ensures the appropriate use of drugs. It is a method of obtaining information to identify problems related to drug use. If properly developed, it also provides a means of correcting the problem and thereby contributes to rational drug therapy. Drug use evaluation can assess the actual process of administration or dispensing of a medication (including appropriate indications, drug selection, dose, route of administration, duration of treatment and drug interactions) and also the outcomes of treatment (for example, cured disease conditions or decreased levels of a clinical parameter). The objectives of drug use evaluation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that drug therapy meets current standards of care • Controlling drug cost • Preventing problems related to medication • Evaluating the effectiveness of drug therapy • Identifying areas of practice that require further education of practitioners.¹³
end of life	The period when a patient is living with, and impaired by, a fatal condition, even if the trajectory is ambiguous or unknown. This period may be years in the case of patients with chronic or malignant disease, or very brief in the case of patients who suffer acute and unexpected illnesses or events, such as sepsis, stroke or trauma. ²
e-prescribing	Prescriptions that are issued and dispensed in an electronic system, without the use of a paper-based document at any point. ¹⁴
hand hygiene	A general term referring to any action of hand cleansing, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing hands with water and soap or a soap solution, either non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial OR • Applying a waterless antimicrobial hand rub to the surface of the hands (for example, alcohol-based hand rub). When performed correctly, hand hygiene results in a reduction of microorganisms on hands. ¹⁵

Term	Definition
healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)	Infections acquired in health service organisations (nosocomial infections) and that occur from healthcare interventions (iatrogenic infections). HAIs may manifest after people leave the organisation. ¹⁰
health service organisation	A separately constituted health service that is responsible for implementing clinical governance, administration and financial management of a service unit(s) that provides health care at the direction of the governing body. A service unit involves a group of clinicians and others working in a systematic way to deliver health care to patients. It can be in any location or setting, including pharmacies, clinics, outpatient facilities, hospitals, patients' homes, community settings, general practices and clinicians' rooms. ²
hospital peer group	A group of Australian public and private hospitals according to a classification system developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Hospitals are assigned to peer groups based on the type and nature of the services they provide. Peer grouping of hospitals supports valid comparisons that reflect the purpose, resources and role of each hospital. ¹
immunocompromised infection	Having an immune system that has been impaired by disease or treatment. ⁶ The invasion and reproduction of pathogenic organisms inside the body, which may cause tissue injury and disease. ² See also <i>pathogen</i>
infection prevention and control (IPC)	Measures that aim to prevent the spread of pathogens between people in a healthcare setting. Examples of IPC measures include using hand hygiene, protective clothing and isolation procedures, and auditing compliance with hygiene measures. ⁶ See also <i>hand hygiene, pathogen</i>
intravenous	Within or into a vein (for example, an intravenous catheter is a catheter that is inserted into a vein). ⁶
invasive medical devices	Devices inserted through the skin, a mucosal barrier or internal cavity, including central lines, peripheral lines, urinary catheters, chest drains, peripherally inserted central catheters and endotracheal tubes. ²
invasive procedure	A procedure that involves entry into tissues, cavities or organs, or repair of traumatic injuries. ¹⁰
Local Health District (LHD)	A legal term used to describe public hospitals and health institutions, and the provision of health services for residents of the geographic areas that constitute the district.
Local Hospital Network (LHN)	An organisation that provides public hospital services in accordance with the National Health Reform Agreement. An LHN can contain one or more hospitals, and may include other health services. It is usually defined as a business group, geographical area or community. Every Australian public hospital is administered by an LHN or LHD. ¹⁶ Several states and territories may apply other terminologies to describe an LHN. These include 'Local Health District', 'Local Health Network', 'Hospital and Health Service' or 'Health Service'.
medication management	Practices used to manage the provision of medicines. Medication management has also been described as a cycle, pathway or system, which is complex and involves many different clinicians. Medication management includes manufacturing, compounding, procuring, dispensing, prescribing, storing, administering and supplying medicines, and monitoring their effects. It also includes decision-making, and rules, guidelines, support tools, policies and procedures that are in place to direct the use of medicines. ²

Term	Definition
medicine	A chemical substance given with the intention of preventing, diagnosing, curing, controlling or alleviating disease, or otherwise improving the physical or mental wellbeing of people. These include prescription, non-prescription, investigational, clinical trial and complementary medicines, regardless of how they are administered. ²
morbidity	The state of being ill, diseased or injured. ⁶
mortality	Death, or the frequency or number of deaths. For example, 'infections are a major cause of mortality worldwide', and 'the mortality rate of this type of infection is 30%'. ⁶
multidisciplinary team	A team that includes clinicians from different disciplines who work together to deliver comprehensive care (that is, care that deals with as many of the patient's health and other needs as possible). The team may operate under one organisational umbrella or may be from several organisations brought together as a unique team. As a patient's condition changes, the composition of the team may change to reflect the changing clinical and psychosocial needs of the patient. Multidisciplinary care includes interdisciplinary care. (A discipline is a branch of knowledge within the health system.) ²
My Health Record (formerly known as a personally controlled electronic health record)	The secure online summary of a consumer's health information. Clinicians are able to share clinical documents to a consumer's My Health Record, according to the consumer's access controls. A My Health Record may include a consumer's medical history, and treatments, diagnoses, medicines and allergies. ² My Health Record is managed by the System Operator of the national My Health Record system (the Australian Digital Health Agency).
National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS)	A voluntary annual audit of antimicrobial use by health services. It provides a snapshot of medication charts and patient records that have been assessed for appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing and compliance with guidelines. The results from NAPS can be used as evidence to support the antimicrobial stewardship criterion of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard. NAPS is part of the AURA Surveillance System.
National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP)	A national surveillance program focusing on standardised measurement of antimicrobial usage in Australian adult public and private hospitals. Hospitals contribute monthly data on a voluntary basis. NAUSP provides a range of reports on usage rates of selected antimicrobials and therapeutic groups. NAUSP is part of the AURA Surveillance System.
National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS)	A national body for antimicrobial stewardship in Australia. NCAS undertakes research relating to antimicrobial consumption, inappropriate use, interventions to change prescribing behaviour and measuring the effectiveness of these interventions. This research informs policy and practice around antimicrobial prescribing for both humans and animals. NCAS conducts NAPS.
National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards	The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care developed the NSQHS Standards to improve the quality of health service provision in Australia. The NSQHS Standards provide a nationally consistent statement about the level of care consumers can expect from health service organisations. ² There are eight standards in the second edition of the NSQHS Standards. See also <i>standard</i>
occupied bed days (OBDs)	The total number of bed days of all admitted patients accommodated during a reporting period, taken from a count of the number of inpatients at about midnight each day. ¹

Term	Definition
outbreak	A classification used in epidemiology to describe a localised group of people affected by an infectious disease. ⁶
passive surveillance	Data collection designed for a broader purpose, but where a subset of the data is used for specific analysis. In this publication, it refers to broader datasets from which data on antimicrobial use and resistance are extracted.
pathogen	A disease-causing agent. The term is often used to refer to infectious microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses or fungi. ⁶
patient	A person who is receiving care in a health service organisation. ² It is acknowledged that some people receiving care are referred to as 'clients'. However, the term 'patient' is commonly used in healthcare delivery, research and literature related to antimicrobial stewardship.
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)	An Australian Government program that subsidises medicines. ¹
point of care	The time and location of an interaction between a patient and a clinician for the purpose of delivering care.
policy	A set of principles that reflect an organisation's mission and direction. All procedures and protocols are linked to a policy statement. ²
prescribers	A health professional authorised to undertake prescribing within the scope of their practice. ¹⁷
prescribing guidelines	Guidelines that describe evidence-based best prescribing practice, and provide a standard against which prescribing behaviour can be compared.
prevalence	The number of events (for example, cases of disease) present in a defined population at one point in time. ¹⁰
procedure	The set of instructions, specific to an organisation, to make policies and protocols operational. ²
program	An initiative, or series of initiatives, designed to deal with a particular issue, with resources, a time frame, objectives and deliverables allocated to it. ²
prophylactic	Medicines or other treatments used to prevent disease or illness. For example, antimicrobials are sometimes given prophylactically before surgery to prevent infection. ⁶
protocol	An established set of rules used to complete a task or a set of tasks. ²
quality improvement (QI)	The combined efforts of the clinical workforce and others – including consumers, patients and their families, researchers, planners, and educators – to make changes that will lead to better: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient outcomes (health) • System performance (care) • Professional development. QI activities may be undertaken in sequence, intermittently or continually. ²
Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS)	An Australian Government program that subsidises medicines for veterans. ¹
risk assessment	A review of the likelihood of risks occurring and the size of their likely effects.
risk management	The design and implementation of a program to identify, and avoid or minimise, risks to an organisation's consumers, workforce, volunteers and visitors, and to the organisation itself. ²

Term	Definition
safety culture	A commitment to safety that permeates all levels of an organisation, from the clinical workforce to executive management. Features commonly include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of the high-risk, error-prone nature of an organisation's activities • A blame-free environment in which individuals are able to report errors or near misses without fear of reprimand or punishment • An expectation of collaboration across all areas and levels of an organisation to seek solutions to vulnerabilities • A willingness of the organisation to direct resources to deal with safety concerns.²
scope of clinical practice	The extent of an individual clinician's approved clinical practice within a particular organisation. A clinician's scope of clinical practice is based on the clinician's skills, knowledge, performance and professional suitability, and the needs and service capability of the organisation. ²
sepsis	A life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis can present in any patient and in any clinical setting, and is a medical emergency. It is one of the leading causes of inpatient death worldwide. ¹⁸
shared decision making	A consultation process in which a clinician and a patient jointly participate in making a health decision. It involves discussing intervention options, and their benefits and harms, and considers the patient's values, preferences and circumstances. ²
standard	Agreed attributes and processes designed to ensure that a product, service or method will perform consistently at a designated level. ² See also <i>National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, clinical care standards</i>
state and territory requirements	Systematically developed statements from state and territory governments about appropriate healthcare or service delivery for specific circumstances. State and territory requirements encompass a range of documents including legislation, regulations, guidelines, policies, directives and circulars. Terms used for each document may vary by state and territory. ²
surgical site infection	An infection that occurs at the site of a surgical operation that is caused by the operation ⁷ and occurs within 30 days of the surgery. ¹⁹ Infections can occur in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin and subcutaneous tissue of the incision (superficial incisional) • Deep soft tissue (for example, fascia, muscle) of the incision (deep incisional) • Any part of the anatomy (for example, organs and internal spaces) other than the incision that was opened or manipulated during an operation (organ/space).¹⁹
surveillance	In the context of this publication, surveillance refers to data collection, analysis and reporting of factors that affect disease, resistance and healthcare delivery, such as antimicrobial use and appropriateness of use.
targeted surveillance	Data collection designed for a specific and targeted purpose. In this publication, it predominantly refers to data collected for the surveillance of antimicrobial-resistant organisms. ¹
therapeutic group or class	A category of medicines that have similar chemical structure and spectrum. ¹

Term	Definition
transitions of care	Situations when all or part of a patient’s care is transferred between health service organisations or individuals, or levels of care within the same location, as the patient’s condition and care needs change. ²
VICNISS	Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance System. VICNISS has been previously known as the Victorian Hospital Acquired Infection Surveillance System and the Victorian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System.
workforce	<p>All people working in a health service organisation, including clinicians, and any other employed or contracted, locum, agency, student, volunteer or peer workers. The workforce includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the health service organisation • Medical company representatives providing technical support who have assigned roles and responsibilities for the care of, administration of, support of or involvement with patients in the health service organisation.²

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