

2019 Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (AC NAPS) Report – Highlights

<p>Concerning levels of inappropriate antimicrobial use persist in Australian residential aged care facilities</p>	<p>Inappropriate antimicrobial use presents risks to residents' safety and increases the potential for the development of antimicrobial resistance</p>	<p>Improved prescribing practices, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship programs are required to address this and improve resident care</p>
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Clinical indication	Prophylaxis and as required (prn) use*	Topical antimicrobials*
<p>Common clinical indications reported include cystitis, skin, soft-tissue or mucosal infections and non-surgical wound infections</p>	<p>20% of antimicrobials were prescribed for prophylactic use – antimicrobials are rarely recommended for prophylaxis</p>	<p>Almost ONE THIRD of all prescriptions were for topical antimicrobials – these are only indicated for a limited number of conditions</p>
<p>Some of these conditions can be prevented using non-pharmacological measures such as good hydration and basic hygiene care</p>	<p>Almost ONE IN SIX antimicrobials were prescribed for prn use</p>	<p>Topical antimicrobials accounted for 90% of prn prescriptions – of these, clotrimazole was the most common</p>
<p>Action</p> <p>Use non-pharmacological management options when appropriate</p> <p>See: Asymptomatic bacteriuria factsheet</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Always document the indication for the prescribed antimicrobial and specify review dates</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Prescribe topical antimicrobials only when indicated and specify treatment duration</p> <p>See: Topical antifungals factsheet</p>

* Results relate to antimicrobial use assessed in the 2019 AC NAPS and are not representative of other settings.

FIND OUT MORE AT:

safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-stewardship-aged-care

