

# Options for implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) in primary care:

## Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services

This document provides guidance for healthcare services to support the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

The guidance should be considered in the context of local requirements and policies. **Table 1** below outlines strategies that could be implemented to demonstrate that a healthcare service meets the AMS actions of the **National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare Standards** (Primary and Community Healthcare Standards).

**Table 1: Options for implementation Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service**

AMS program elements with relevant Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Actions	Implementation in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
<b>Action 3.14a</b>	
Provides healthcare providers with access to, and promotes the use of, current evidence-based Australian therapeutic guidelines and resources on antimicrobial prescribing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures prescribers have recommended guidelines readily accessible for use.</li> <li>• Ensures prescribers are able to seek guidance regarding the particular challenges of antimicrobial stewardship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a culturally safe manner. Particularly the balance of timely access to antimicrobials to address infectious disease burden and the judicious use of antimicrobials to minimise antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a population that can experience higher levels of AMR.</li> <li>• Examples of guidelines include <a href="#">Therapeutic Guidelines</a> eTG; the Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual; and Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Health Disease (ARF RHD) Guidelines.</li> </ul>

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

AMS program elements with relevant Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Actions	Implementation in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
<b>Action 3.14b</b>	
<p>Incorporates core elements, recommendations and principles from the current <a href="#">Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard</a> into service delivery</p> <p>Note: not all Quality Statements (Qs) from the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard will be relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QS1</b> – Prescribers recognise when a patient needs referral to an acute care facility e.g., hospital. In rural and remote settings antimicrobial access and risk of sepsis must be balanced.</li> <li>• <b>QS2</b> – see above 3.14a</li> <li>• <b>QS3</b> – Patient allergies/ hypersensitivity/ intolerances are appropriately documented in their healthcare record and accounted for when prescribing.</li> <li>• <b>QS4</b> – Practitioners utilise microbiology testing as appropriate when prescribing antimicrobials.</li> <li>• <b>QS5</b> – Patients are thoroughly counselled when prescribed antimicrobials as outlined in this QS.</li> <li>• <b>QS6</b> – Antimicrobials are documented in the patient’s healthcare record.</li> <li>• <b>QS7</b> – Any antimicrobial prescription is regularly reviewed, particularly if prescribed for an extended duration.</li> <li>• <b>QS8</b> – Any antimicrobial prescribed for surgical or procedural prophylaxis is provided in accordance with the Therapeutic Guidelines or equivalent evidence-based guideline.</li> </ul>
<b>Action 3.14c</b>	
<p>Supports healthcare providers who prescribe antimicrobials to review compliance of antimicrobial prescribing against current local or Australian therapeutic guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribers or others in their team may perform an audit of antimicrobial prescriptions as a quality improvement activity to assess the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescriptions. These results can be presented to prescribers as part of ongoing practice reflection and education.</li> </ul>
<b>Action 3.14d</b>	
<p>Supports healthcare providers to identify the areas of improvement and takes action to increase the appropriateness of antimicrobial usage</p>	<p>AMS in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services encompasses multiple activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paying particular attention to need for cultural awareness, competency, and safety.</li> <li>• Auditing and individual clinician feedback on prescribing practices</li> <li>• Specifying indication and stop date of prescription</li> </ul>
<b>Action 3.14e</b>	
<p>Has mechanisms to educate consumers about the risks, benefits, and alternatives to antimicrobials for their condition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials available to educate patients on antimicrobial resistance and use of antimicrobials.</li> <li>• Culturally appropriate information pamphlets (also taking health literacy into consideration). Short media clips in language.</li> </ul>

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

AMS program elements with relevant Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Actions	Implementation in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider examples from the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health <a href="#">Trachoma resources</a></li> </ul>
Specialised Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care (AMS Book)</a> Chapter 15 - Antimicrobial stewardship in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population</li> <li>National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) – <a href="#">Good Medicine Better Health</a> – 5 questions to ask about medicines</li> <li><a href="#">Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual</a></li> <li><a href="#">Rheumatic Health Disease (ARF RHD) Guidelines</a></li> </ul>

For more information, please visit: [National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare Standards](#)

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