

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

## Community Health services, including nurses, and nurse midwife practitioners

This document provides guidance for healthcare services to support the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs in Community Health services, including nurses, and nurse and midwife practitioners.

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 in Community Health services**

AMS program elements with relevant Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Actions	Implementation in Community Health services
<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>• Examples of guidelines include <a href="#">Therapeutic Guidelines</a> eTG.</li> </ul>
<b>Action 3.14b</b>	
Incorporates core elements, recommendations and principles from the current <a href="#">Antimicrobial Stewardship</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QS1</b> – Practitioners recognise when a patient needs referral to an acute care facility e.g., hospital or General Practitioner</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> </ul>

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AMS program elements with relevant Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Actions	Implementation in Community Health services
<p><a href="#">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>QS4</b> – Practitioners utilise microbiology testing as appropriate when prescribing antimicrobials.</li> <li>• <b>QS5</b> – Patients are 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> </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>	<p>Monitoring may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit number of antimicrobials used per patient.</li> <li>• Audit the appropriateness of Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) elastomeric pumps.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered tailored strategies based on areas identified in 3.14c.</li> </ul>
<b>Action 3.14 e</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>• See the consumer pamphlet <a href="#">Do I really need antibiotics?</a></li> </ul>
<p>Specialised Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care (AMS Book)</a> Chapter 12 – Role of nurses, midwives and infection control practitioners in antimicrobial stewardship</li> </ul>

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

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