


Protecting Patients from Antibiotic Resistance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that 2.8 million people are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria each year, with over 40,000 that die from drug resistant infections. We, as healthcare providers, can do a lot to protect our patients not only from resistant infections, but from the spread of these infections from one patient to the next (or to ourselves). Below is a quick fact sheet that can easily be printed for 3 simple steps for protecting patients and stopping outbreaks of infections.

PROTECT YOUR PATIENTS, COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Actions For Healthcare Providers

You can protect your patients from antibiotic-resistant germs such as bacteria and fungi, which can cause difficult and sometimes impossible to treat infections.

 <p>Prevent Infections & the Spread of Germs</p> <p>Follow infection prevention and control recommendations, including screening at-risk patients when indicated.</p> <p>Ask patients if they recently received care in another facility or traveled to another country (germs can be spread easily across borders).</p> <p>Ensure your patients receive recommended vaccines.</p> <p>Alert receiving facilities when transferring patients who are colonized or infected with antibiotic-resistant germs.</p> <p>Educate patients on ways to prevent spread.</p> <p>Stay informed of current outbreaks.</p>	 <p>Improve Antibiotic Prescribing</p> <p>Follow clinical and treatment guidelines. Support CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship to ensure appropriate antibiotic use.</p> <p>Consider fungal infections for patients with respiratory infections that do not respond to antibiotics.</p> <p>Watch for signs and symptoms of sepsis. If you suspect sepsis, start antibiotics as soon as possible and reassess antibiotic therapy.</p> <p>Perform appropriate diagnostic tests to guide antibiotic therapy, including correct drug, dose, and duration.</p>	 <p>Be Alert & Take Action</p> <p>Be aware of infections and resistance patterns in your facility and community.</p> <p>Ensure you are notified by the lab immediately when antibiotic-resistant germs are identified in your patients.</p> <p>Inform patients and families if they have an antibiotic-resistant infection, as well as sexual partners when appropriate (e.g., gonorrhea).</p> <p>Know when to report cases and submit resistant isolates to the health department to help identify unusual resistance or treatment failures.</p>
 <p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p>		