

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP BACKGROUNDER: CONNECTING PHARMACISTS WITH PRESCRIBERS

Susan Fryters BScPharm, ACPR, Jeremy Slobodan BSP

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Backgrounder (ASB) newsletters were created to highlight issues related to antimicrobial use within Alberta Health Services (AHS).

The backgrounders are designed to provide short and concise information on a focused antimicrobial stewardship topic. The “bottom line” message is listed at the top of the document and brief background information is provided to support the bottom line. The ASBs are sent to AHS staff and physicians using an email distribution list.

In addition, pharmacists are invited to one of two short 15 minute Lync presentations to review the backgrounder information and provide the opportunity for them to ask questions about the content and/or discuss implementation issues. Two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, held on different days in the same week, are offered for each backgrounder to maximize the opportunity for pharmacists to participate.

Pharmacists are then asked to share the backgrounder information during their therapeutic discussions with prescribers with the aim of improving antimicrobial use.

We measured attendance at the Lync sessions to determine whether the session and the backgrounders were of value to pharmacists.

As of August 31st, 2014 three backgrounders have been presented to pharmacists:

	Total Attendance
• Meropenem Dosage (January 2014)	125
• Carbapenem Selection (April 2014)	131
• IV to Oral Switch Therapy (June 2014)	157

Pharmacist attendance at these sessions is increasing. This suggests that the ASBs and the related presentations are informative and useful to AHS pharmacists. This is also supported by feedback collected at the sessions using the Lync polling feature, providing an overall positive impression of the backgrounders and their utility in improving antimicrobial utilization.

Future steps include measuring utilization data to determine the impact of the ASB on antimicrobial use and measuring the frequency with which these ASBs are discussed with prescribers to better understand the impact these ASBs and related sessions have on antimicrobial stewardship in AHS.



CSHP 2015 Goal

Goal 3: Increase the extent to which hospital and related healthcare setting pharmacists actively apply evidence-based methods to the improvement of medication therapy.

CSHP 2015 Objective Highlighted

Objective 3.1 In 100% of hospitals and related healthcare settings, pharmacists will be actively involved in providing care to individual patients that is based on evidence⁷, such as the use of quality drug information resources, published clinical studies or guidelines, and expert consensus advice.