



## HCSC Partners With CDC on Antibiotic Stewardship Toolkit

Each year, at least **2.8 million people in the U.S. are infected** with antibiotic-resistant bacteria or fungi, and more than **35,000 die** as a result, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

To combat antibiotic resistance, HCSC's [Quality Innovation Institute](#) is working with the CDC to develop a **health plan toolkit to support antimicrobial stewardship initiatives**. The toolkit will focus on improving outpatient antibiotic prescribing, and include:

- **Education** on why outpatient antibiotic use is a target for quality improvement;
- [CDC's Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship](#);
- Metrics to **measure and track outpatient antibiotic use**;
- **Interventions** to consider, with examples and studies of payors and health care systems that have implemented them; and
- A comprehensive collection of resources and references.

Antimicrobial stewardship is nothing new for HCSC. In 2017, the Quality team began a stewardship program to:

- **Monitor and inform practitioners** of their **prescribing behavior**;
- Implement a **patient safety initiative** by **reducing unnecessary** antimicrobial prescriptions; and
- **Improve HEDIS/QRS rates** for avoidance of antibiotic treatment for acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis and appropriate upper respiratory infection treatment measures.

Implementing an **antimicrobial stewardship program** in hospitals and health care facilities has also **shown an annual cost savings of \$200,000 to \$400,000**.

**Learn more:** [Watch the recording](#) of the Quality Speaker Series event on antibiotic stewardship with special guest Dr. Lauri Hicks, medical epidemiologist in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC.