



Medication Management Standards Newsletter

The VCH Accreditation Medication Management Standards Advisory Group is working on Accreditation Canada's Medication Management Standards to address improvement opportunities identified from the self assessments surveys conducted during Spring 2015.

These standards focus on the safe and effective management of medications; and address all aspects of the medication use process from selection to patient administration.

- Accreditation Canada Survey will take place September 19–23, 2016
- In this issue, we focus on 1 of the 6 Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) related to Medication Management Standards

Required Organization Practice: Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme

An Antimicrobial Stewardship programme in the acute care and inpatient rehabilitation setting is a required organizational practice (ROP) of the Medication Management standards of Accreditation Canada.

Antimicrobial Stewardship is the practice of using anti-infectives (such as antibiotics, antifungals, and antivirals) appropriately for the treatment of infections to optimize patient outcomes. It aims to use the narrowest spectrum anti-infectives that treat patients effectively in order to preserve the effectiveness of anti-infectives for the future.

The regional VCH ASPIRES programme (**Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme: Innovation, Research, Education, and Safety**) team consists of an infectious disease specialist/medical microbiologist, an antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist, a project manager and a statistical analyst.

The ASPIRES team collaborates closely with clinicians, laboratory physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other health care professionals at VCH to promote best practices and to provide education for anti-infective use.

ASPIRES goals are to improve the overall quality and patient safety at our hospitals by:

- Promoting smart anti-infective prescribing
- Providing education for optimizing anti-infective use
- Developing best clinical practice guidelines
- Working collaboratively towards systems improvement

Examples of ASPIRES activities include:

Clinical Activities

- *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Quality Assurance Initiative by Pharmacy and Infection Control (all CDI patients are followed-up by Pharmacists to optimize therapies)
- Prospective Audit and Feedback
- Parenteral-to-Oral Stepdown by ASPIRES team and Clinical Pharmacists

Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Community-acquired Pneumonia, Urinary Tract Infection and Ventilator-associated Pneumonia Management Algorithms and Pre-printed Orders
- Surgical Prophylaxis Recommendations

Clinical Tools and Resources

- Antibigram compiled by Medical Microbiology
- Anti-infective Comparison and Common Infections Treatment Cards
- Parenteral-to-Oral Stepdown Chart Talkers
- ASPIRES Resource Intranet Site
- Grand Rounds and Educational Sessions for Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists and Allied Health Providers

Antimicrobial Stewardship requires a team effort in order to ensure that patients receive the best treatment, while preventing the development of resistance. The ASPIRES team can be reached at 604-871-1670.