

Example 1.1 Sharp Coronado Hospital and Villa Long Term Care Statement of Support (1 of 2)

Dear valued member of the Sharp Healthcare team:

Each year in the United States, approximately 2 million people are infected with a bacteria found to be resistant to antibiotics, according to the CDC. Annually, 23,000 people die from these infections. As an organization that is committed to improving the health of our patients, Sharp HealthCare is pledging to take a stance against antibiotic resistance and inappropriate antimicrobial usage, which can also lead to therapeutic failures, debilitating side effects, increased patient burden, and the development of life-threatening infections, such as *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*).

Studies show that up to 50% of antibiotics prescribed in American hospitals are inappropriate. Antibiotics are often given unnecessarily, prescribed longer than required, and sometimes broad spectrum antibiotics are given when a narrow agent would suffice. Additionally, ineffective antibiotics are often prescribed, which can result in delayed treatment, over-exposure to antibiotics and their side effects, as well as the development of antibiotic resistance.

Unfortunately, an additional result of all this unnecessary usage is a high financial burden to the U.S. healthcare system, estimated to be up to \$20 billion each year. Infections caused by multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO's) are not reimbursed by many insurers, including Medicare, and accounts for another \$35 billion in lost productivity annually. State and federal agencies have already issued several mandates requiring antibiotic stewardship efforts across the continuum of care.

The following legislative requirements have been passed regarding antimicrobial stewardship:

- **California Senate Bill 739:** Hospitals are required to develop a process for monitoring the judicious use of antibiotics, the results of which are monitored by quality improvement committee(s).
- **California Senate Bill 1311:** Hospitals are further required adopt and implement an antimicrobial stewardship policy in accordance with guidelines established by federal government and professional organizations, and to establish a physician-supervised multidisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship committee with at least one physician or pharmacist who has undergone specific training related to stewardship.
- **California Senate Bill 361:** Skilled nursing facilities are required to adopt and implement an antibiotic stewardship policy by January 1, 2017.
- **The Joint Commission Medication Management (MM) Standard 09.01.01:** Hospitals and Nursing Care Centers are required to have an antimicrobial stewardship effective by January 1, 2017.

Antibiotic stewardship refers to systematic efforts to optimize antibiotic usage. Sharp's goal is to maximize their benefits, while minimizing their adverse effects and reducing the collateral damage they may cause. Antibiotic stewardship programs have been shown clearly to reduce the percentage of antibiotic-resistant organisms in a facility, reduce the incidence of *C. difficile* infections, improve patient outcomes, decrease toxicity, and reduce healthcare costs.

Antibiotic stewardship should not be a burden. However, it requires the sustained, coordinated, & complementary efforts of all parties involved in the prescribing, dispensing, and administration of antibiotics. Sharp HealthCare recognizes the importance of antimicrobial stewardship and is devoted to improving antibiotic use in our facilities through the following commitments:

For more information about this example contact Bridget Olson, ID/ASP Pharmacist at Bridget.Olson@sharp.com

Example 1.1 Sharp Coronado Hospital and Villa Long Term Care Statement of Support (2 of 2)

- Improved accountability among ALL levels of the healthcare team
- Investment in personnel, resources, and technology to help maintain and improve stewardship efforts
- Increased availability and dissemination of education related to antibiotic use

With these efforts and your continued dedication, Sharp will continue to transform the health care experience and be recognized as the best place to work, practice medicine, and receive care.

Thank you,

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For more information, please contact the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC), SharpNet ASP website, or your local ASP Team.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013. Atlanta, Georgia. 2013. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>
2. California Senate Bill 739, Speier. Hospitals: Infection Control (2006).
3. California Senate Bill 1311, Hill. Hospitals: Antimicrobial Stewardship (2014).
4. California Senate Bill 361, Hill. Antimicrobial Stewardship: Education and Policies (2015).
5. The Joint Commission Prepublication Standards. New Antimicrobial Stewardship Standard. June 2016. Accessed Nov 22, 2016. https://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx

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