

CONSULTANT PHARMACISTS:
BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE

Ensure Documentation of the Indication for Every Antibiotic Order



SCENARIO

You are reviewing an order for amoxicillin and no indication is documented in the resident's medical record.

Reviewing antibiotic indications can inform antibiotic selection and assist with determining the appropriate duration during an antibiotic review process.¹ Prescription documentation, including the indication for use, is required as part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements for long-term care facilities.²

Consultant pharmacists can help ensure documentation of antibiotic indications by:



1. Alerting the healthcare professional that the antibiotic prescribed has no documented indication.



2. Discussing the clinical indication for the prescribed antibiotic with the healthcare professional and documenting the indication in the medical record.



3. Providing education for facility staff that every antibiotic order should have a documented indication for prescribing.

The scenarios and recommendations are applicable to most nursing home residents. Prior to making recommendations, always assess the individual resident, review the documentation in the medical record, discuss with facility staff, and use your clinical judgment. Follow your facility's protocols and treatment guidelines when applicable.

References:

1. CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/antibiotic-stewardship.html>
2. State Operations Manual Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors Long Term Care Facilities <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Appendix-PP-State-Operations-Manual.pdf>



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SMART USE, BEST CARE



www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use