

CONSULTANT PHARMACISTS:
BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE

Limit Prolonged Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Urinary Tract Infection



SCENARIO

During the monthly medication review, you find a resident who has received five months of nitrofurantoin to prevent urinary tract infection (UTI).

Antibiotics are frequently prescribed for prolonged duration for the prevention of infection or prophylaxis in nursing homes.¹ While antibiotic prophylaxis may reduce recurrent UTIs in specific population,²⁻³ there is no clear evidence on prevention of recurrent UTIs among nursing home residents with asymptomatic bacteriuria.⁴ Furthermore, antibiotic use carries the risk of harm to residents, including adverse drug events and increased antibiotic resistance, which argue against the use of prolonged antibiotic therapy in nursing home residents.⁵

Consultant pharmacists can help limit the use of prolonged antibiotic prophylaxis by:



1. Identifying residents on prolonged antibiotic therapy for the prevention of recurrent UTI.



2. Discussing the indications, rationale, and planned duration of prolonged antibiotic therapy with healthcare professionals to ensure that the benefits outweigh the risk of adverse drug events.

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. Thompson ND, et al. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2016 Dec;17(12):1151-1153.
2. Anger J, et al. J Urol. 2019 Aug;202(2):282-289.
3. Ahmed H, et al. Age Ageing. 2019 Mar;48(2):228-234.
4. Nicolle LE, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2019 May;68(10):e83-110.
5. Ashraf MS, et al. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2020 Jan;21(1):12-24.



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www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use