

Outpatient Antimicrobial Stewardship:

Together we can improve patient care

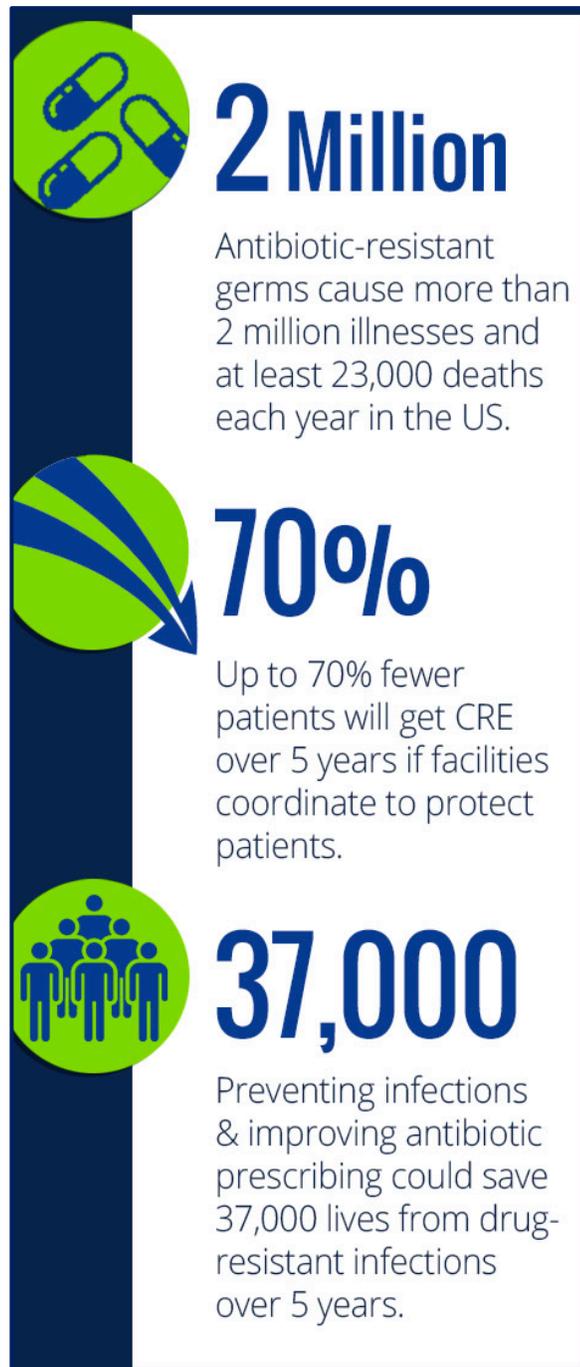
Since their discovery in the 1920s, antibiotics have transformed our ability to treat infections. As antibiotic resistance increases, these lifesaving drugs do not work as well as they once did, and successfully treating common infections becomes more difficult.¹ For example, nightmare germs called CRE (carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*) can cause deadly infections and have become resistant to all or nearly all antibiotics we have today. CRE spreads between healthcare facilities when appropriate actions are not taken.

The problem of antibiotic resistance has been identified as a fundamental aspect of global health security. As such, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Agriculture and Health and Human Services, the President's Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) was formed. This has also translated into a priority effort across federal, state, academic, public and private entities.

Combatting Antibiotic Resistance

Central to a comprehensive program to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria is antibiotic stewardship (or antimicrobial stewardship) within healthcare systems and throughout the healthcare community. Antibiotic stewardship is a program by which facilities are able to monitor, reduce and prevent misuse and/or overuse of antibiotics within a healthcare system using a multidisciplinary team and strategic approach. Often seen in hospitals in different forms, antibiotic stewardship principles must be expanded beyond the inpatient setting as part of a comprehensive patient care model.

In support of this principle, Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network is recruiting providers in outpatient clinical settings including, but not limited to, emergency departments, urgent care clinics, outpatient clinics, physician offices, pharmacies and ESRD facilities. Recruited participants will work with Quality Insights as well as healthcare providers throughout Delaware,



Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/stop-spread/index.html>

¹ CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/about/index.html>)

Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to develop an evidence-based, patient-focused approach to implementing and maintaining an antimicrobial stewardship program.

Additionally, Quality Insights is engaging people with Medicare and other community stakeholders in order to identify and develop areas where education and antibiotic stewardship programs are needed. Through these relationships, we will help to carry out the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria's (PACCARB) recommendations by forming, leading and/or participating in critical partnerships with state and local agencies, private-sector organizations, patient advocacy groups and other entities engaged in this important work.

Collaborating with the QIN

Quality Insights has been working on antibiotic stewardship in concert with a project focused on preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), particularly *Clostridium difficile*, in hospitals. Quality Insights also has a strong history of working in the community and outpatient settings to promote, share and identify gaps in order to facilitate transitions of care across healthcare systems.

The Benefits of Project Participation

Quality Insights will support providers participating in the project by offering:

- Education and implementation support with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship in Outpatient Settings
- Access to My Quality Insights, an online learning platform that includes educational materials, learning modules and other resources
- Technical assistance and evidence-based tools focused on antibiotic stewardship

The benefits of participating in the project include:

- Access to free resources, education and support from network and local Quality Insights staff as well as national and local stakeholders and partners
- Collaboration with other outpatient providers from five states in a virtual environment
- No burdensome time commitments like travel, excessive conference calls or on-site meetings

Join *Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Through Antibiotic Stewardship in Communities*

If you are interested in joining the *Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Through Antibiotic Stewardship in Communities* project, visit www.qualityinsights-qin.org. Click on the Get Local tab, choose your state and select Local Assistance. Your local Antibiotic Stewardship representative can explain more about the project, answer your questions and review the next steps. You can also contact Network Task Lead E. Eve Esslinger, MSN, CRNP, at 1.877.346.6180, ext. 7685, or via e-mail at eesslinger@wvmi.org

