

MEMO

To: Health Service Providers and Primary Care Partners

Subject: South West LHIN Home and Community Care Antibiotic Stewardship Initiative and new IV Antibiotic Referral/Order Form

Date: May 21, 2019

The purpose of this memo is to provide an important update on new IV antibiotic stewardship guidelines for South West LHIN Home and Community Care patients, including a revised referral/order form.

The gap

The current state of IV antibiotic use indicates that 20 to 50 percent of prescriptions in the community sector are either unnecessary or inappropriately prescribed. These practices negatively impact patient care and contribute to antibiotic resistance. To date, there has been minimal antibiotic stewardship in this sector due to a lack of awareness of best practice guidelines, resources and support.

Antibiotic stewardship strategies improve patient outcomes, reduce adverse events including Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI), improve rates of **antibiotic** susceptibilities to targeted **antibiotics**, and optimize resource utilization across the continuum of care.

The response

In response to this gap in care, the South West LHIN Home and Community Care collaborated with a multidisciplinary cross-sector steering committee including: acute care hospitals; nursing; information technology; primary care; emergency department and infectious disease clinical leaders; and hospital and community pharmacists to develop consistent standards and practices for prescribing, dispensing, monitoring and distributing IV antibiotics according to best practice guidelines.

The team engaged with multiple community prescribers to redesign the South West LHIN IV antibiotic referral form and to integrate **IV antibiotic stewardship best practice guidelines** for the most common indications for IV antibiotic use in the community. The best practice guidelines act as a resource to directly support patient safety.

- During phase 1, the team worked with community pharmacies, Health Service Providers (HSPs) and Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) with common goals to develop and implement appropriate stewardship resources, **including a new [IV antibiotic referral form](#) and a structured pharmacy review of protected antibiotics within 72-hours of drug initiation**. This process was trialed to evaluate and develop the project scope.
- Phase 2 includes spreading the project, and raising awareness of the newly establish IV antibiotic stewardship practices in the home and community care sector across the South West region. There also is a need to increase awareness of antibiotic overuse and potential risks; and reach out to target audiences regarding appropriate antibiotic use and issue of antibiotic resistance.

We ask that you support this community IV antibiotic stewardship work by:

- Sharing the new South West [IV Antibiotic Referral Form](#) with all prescribers within your organization.
- Adopting the [new form](#) which is structured to align with best practices starting Monday, May 27, 2019.
- Participating in pharmacy consultation when prescribing protected IV antibiotics.
- Appropriately consulting an infectious disease physician for an eConsult through OntarioMD as a resource to support challenging cases.
- Discarding/destroying all old South West LHIN IV Home Infusion Forms, including deactivating/deleting old versions within your EMR. The new [South West LHIN IV antibiotic referral form](#) can be found on the [LHIN website](#).
- A fillable PDF, PS Suite EMR-compatible version and information regarding the QHR Accuro version of this form will be posted to the [SWPCA website](#)

Accountability

We are committed to tracking data-driven outcome metrics, including rates of appropriate antibiotic prescribing, and will report back to stakeholders at regular intervals. The best practice guidelines will be reviewed and updated annually

References/ Resources

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Accreditation Canada](#)

[Health Quality Ontario](#)

[Choosing Wisely](#)

Prudent and responsible antibiotic use is critical for patient safety and an effective use of the health system. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to ensure the delivery of high quality, safe patient care.

Contact

For face-to-face support or questions, please contact Kaylene.groot@lhins.on.ca. Awareness posters for care providers and the public will be available soon. Contact [Kaylene](#) to request copies for your organization or site.

Update on Community Infusion Devices

The South West LHIN commonly supports patients requiring IV antibiotics through the use of elastomeric devices. The elastomeric device is a non-electronic, discrete, portable unit which provides controlled delivery of medications over an isolated period of time to promote improved quality of life.

Patients report high levels of satisfaction if/when able to achieve a level of self-management, while still receiving support from nursing at home or in a community nursing clinic setting. For medications not suitable for elastomeric device, or based on patient need, IV antibiotics will be delivered through a traditional electronic pump. LHIN Care Coordinators and pharmacists work with each patient to determine which device is most suitable to deliver therapy.