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Pediatric antimicrobial stewardship in an adult hospital

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Statement of the Problem: Antibiotics are often associated with overuse, antibiotic resistance, medication errors and adverse events. Antimicrobial stewardship is a collaborative effort to improve the appropriate use of antibiotics by focusing on selection of the correct agent, dose, frequency, route and duration.

Discussion: Community Health Network established an antimicrobial stewardship committee in 2014. This committee has the following goals based on expert guidelines:

- a) De-escalation of antibiotics based on clinical factors and microbiologic data
- b) Optimize antibiotic duration
- c) Change from parenteral to oral antibiotic route
- d) Dose optimization for efficacy and safety
- e) Avoid duplicate therapy

The committee utilizes the following to achieve the goals:

- a) Establish evidence based guidelines for disease state diagnosis/ antibiotic use
 - i. Physician user input and buy in up front
 - ii. Provide education regarding guideline to physicians/ pharmacy/ nursing
- b) Prospective auditing and physician intervention by pharmacy and peer feedback to prescribers.
- c) Provider, unit, and Hospital Days of Therapy (DOT) data for review and comparison to peers and national benchmarks
- d) Antibiogram review
- e) Formulary review with P&T committee

Conclusion & Significance: Pediatric antimicrobial stewardship is starting on the pediatric, pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care units. The goals and initiatives established in the adult population are a solid foundation for identifying pediatric opportunities.

Biography

Sarah Nierman is the Pediatric/PICU/NICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Community Health Network and a Clinical Instructor at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is a member of the health system's antimicrobial stewardship program committee.

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