

Dear SNF Antibiotic Stewardship Leader,

In late 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released their [annual update](#) on progress and opportunities for antibiotic use in the United States. The report noted several opportunities for improving antibiotic use across healthcare settings, including nursing homes. In particular, suspected urinary tract infections account for a significant proportion of nursing home antibiotic use. Our PDPH-LTC RISE survey data (2022) indicates that there may be opportunities for improving antibiotic stewardship education among clinical providers, residents, and families in Philadelphia nursing homes.

We have included here a **Urinary tract infection-Focused Antibiotic Stewardship Toolkit (U-FAST)**. The purpose of these tools is to help facilitate the appropriate use of antibiotics during management of suspected urinary tract infections. A list of the resources along with a link to each document is located on the reverse side of this letter. We have also included guidance on how these resources could be used in your facility.

A printed version of **U-FAST** documents will also be mailed to your facility. We hope these resources will strengthen your efforts to keep residents safe from the development of antibiotic-resistant germs and other adverse effects of antibiotic use. If you have any questions about these resources, please reach out to your RISE team member.

PDPH & LTC-RISE Antibiotic Stewardship Working Group

Resource	How to use	Link
1 Asymptomatic bacteriuria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-page guide to managing residents with positive urine cultures and NO symptoms of UTI 	Use this guide to provide stewardship education to bedside nursing staff and prescribers* in your facility. Consider posting the guide around areas where staff may be working	AHRQ
2 Approaching a suspected UTI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to appropriate workup for residents with signs and symptoms of UTIs 4x6 pocket cards, and 8x11 poster included 	Distribute the pocket cards for prescribers to carry during rounds for easy access. Consider posting the 8x11 version around touchdown spaces or other areas where prescribers may be working	AHRQ – 8x11 AHRQ – 4x6
3 Nursing SBAR for suspected UTI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication tool to structure UTI discussion when nursing is contacting prescribers 	Review the form with bedside nurses as part of training or annual education. Request that the form be filled out and kept in medical record during all resident encounters for suspected UTI.	AHRQ
4 Collecting urine cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-page guide to proper technique for urine culture collection in residents with & without catheters 	Distribute this guide to bedside nursing staff who are involved in the collection of urine cultures. Consider including it with nursing training or annual education, and/or posting it around nursing stations	AHRQ
5 Diagnosis and treatment of UTIs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific UTI diagnosis & treatment recommendations, including choice of antibiotic and duration 	Distribute this guide to prescribers in your facility. Consider posting around touchdown spaces or other areas where prescribers may be working	AHRQ
6 Antibiotic timeout tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocol to reassess antibiotics after 48-72hrs based on the additional culture and clinical data available 	Use this form routinely after all new antibiotic orders. Contact your electronic medical record provider (e.g., Point-Click-Care) to ask if it can be inserted as a user-defined alert. Consider tracking and reporting antibiotic timeout results at QAPI meetings.	RISE
7 Talking to residents & family members about UTIs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking points to respond to common questions from residents & family members about UTIs 	Use this guide to provide stewardship education to bedside nursing staff and prescribers in your facility. Consider posting around areas where staff may be working.	AHRQ
8 Resident/family educational pamphlet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trifold brochure for residents & families with answers to general FAQs around antibiotics 	Keep copies of this pamphlet on the unit and provide as a resource to any resident or family member who has questions about antibiotics.	CDC
9 Antibiotic commitment poster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A public display of your community's commitment to antibiotic stewardship and accountability 	Contact PDPH (HAI.PDPH@phila.gov) or your RISE team member to have poster customized for your facility, including company logo, electronic signatures, and/or pictures of facility leadership.	PDPH

*Prescriber refers to any physician or advance practice provider who writes orders for medications (including antibiotics) in your facility