

Introduction

Antibiotic resistance has increased dramatically over the past several decades. Increasing resistance, coupled with a pipeline for new antimicrobial agents which has all but dried up, has meant prudent use of antibiotics is critically important. The selection of optimal therapy for infections can be a daunting task for healthcare professionals. Antibiotic resistance is among the most serious issues facing contemporary healthcare. Changing antibiotic resistance patterns, rising antibiotic costs and the introduction of new antibiotics have made selecting optimal antibiotic regimens more difficult now than ever before. Antibiotics are the only class of medications where use in one patient can directly impact another patient. As a response to these challenges, the UCLA Antimicrobial Stewardship Program was created in July 2010. Directed by an Infectious Diseases physician (Daniel Z. Uslan, M.D.) and Infectious Disease pharmacist (Meganne Kanatani, Pharm.D.), the intent of the program is to optimize antimicrobial use at UCLA through appropriate selection, dosing, and duration of therapy. Our goals are to improve clinical outcomes by ensuring patients with infection are appropriately treated, reducing the emergence of resistance, limiting drug-related adverse events, and minimizing the risk of unintentional consequences associated with antimicrobials, such as *C. diff*. These guidelines are a step in that direction.

These guidelines are based on current literature reviews, including national guidelines and consensus statements, current microbiology data from the UCLA lab, and UCLA faculty expert opinion. Faculty from various departments have reviewed and approved these guidelines. As you will see, in addition to antibiotic recommendations, the guidelines also contain information about diagnosis, test ordering, and other useful management tips.

As the name implies, these are only guidelines, and can never substitute for clinical judgement. This book is not intended to serve as a comprehensive resource for treatment of infections, and expert consultation is always suggested for complex infections. If you have specific feedback on sections or are interested in more information on any of the topics herein, please feel free to contact us. Our goal is for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program to serve as a valued service in optimizing the care of the 60% of UCLA patients who receive antimicrobials. We welcome your thoughts and comments to (310) 267-7567 or to ASP@ucla.edu

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