

HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS:
BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE

Use the Shortest Effective Antibiotic Duration



SCENARIO

You are performing medication reconciliation and reviewing discharge antibiotic orders for a patient.

Antibiotic stewardship programs are targeting interventions to reduce unnecessarily long durations of antibiotic treatment. In adult patients who have a timely clinical response, guidelines suggest the following durations for uncomplicated cases of these infections:

- **Community-Acquired Pneumonia:** Five days¹
- **Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia:** Seven days²
- **Non-purulent Cellulitis:** Five days³

Pharmacists can help optimize antibiotic duration by:



1. Adding the total number of days of uninterrupted inpatient antibiotic therapy to planned post-discharge antibiotic duration.



2. Alerting the provider if the total duration of inpatient and post-discharge antibiotic therapy exceeds the recommended duration according to treatment guidelines.



3. Discussing optimizing the duration of post-discharge antibiotic therapy with the provider if the patient had an uncomplicated clinical course and has responded appropriately to treatment.

The scenarios and recommendations discussed are applicable to most immunocompetent adult patients. Prior to making interventions, always assess the individual patient and use your clinical judgment. Follow your institution's treatment guidelines when applicable.

References:

1. Mandell LA, Wunderink RG, Anzueto A, et al. Infectious Diseases Society of America/American Thoracic Society consensus guidelines on the management of community-acquired pneumonia in adults. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2007;44 Suppl 2:S27-72. https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/44/Supplement_2/S27/372079.
2. Kalil AC, Metersky ML, Klompas M, et al. Management of Adults With Hospital-acquired and Ventilator-associated Pneumonia: 2016 Clinical Practice Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American Thoracic Society. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2016. https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/hap_vap.
3. Stevens DL, Bisno AL, Chambers HF, et al. Practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of skin and soft tissue infections: 2014 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2014;59(2):e10-52. <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/52/5/e103/388285>.



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www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use