



Nurses and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Nurses play a key role in combating AMR by:

- helping to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate antibiotic use
- promoting and practising good infection control
- educating patients and the general public on the issue of AMR and the things that people can do to prevent it getting worse.

Nurses are a trusted source of advice on a range of health-related issues. They are often approached by patients and members of the general public for information and guidance.

Nurses have a key role to play in many areas relevant to AMR, including:

- promoting and practising standard prevention precautions including hand washing and other infection control measures
- recognising signs and symptoms of infection
- initiating clinical assessment and review
- ensuring that timely specimens for microbiology are collected correctly
- promoting the use of prescribing guidelines
- providing information and support to patients and their families about their health condition, treatment options, and how and why to take medicines according to the doctor's instructions
- medication administration and management
- ensuring treatments are recorded properly in the patient's health record.

Resources

Work is currently underway, led by the nursing profession, to clearly articulate the role that nurses can play in preventing and responding to AMR. However, existing resources are available to assist and guide nurses at all levels on how they might take an active role in this important area.

Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Hospitals 2011

The publication [Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care 2018 \(the AMS Book\)](#) helps hospitals to develop and implement antimicrobial stewardship programs.

Clinical Care Standards

The [Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) Clinical Care Standard](#) and supporting resources aims to ensure that a patient with a bacterial infection receives optimal treatment with antibiotics.

The AMS Clinical Care Standard provides guidance relevant to nurses in relation to documentation, route, timeliness of administration and patient education.

White Paper

Redefining the Antibiotic Stewardship Team: Recommendations from the American Nurses Association/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Workgroup on the Role of Registered Nurses in Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Practices.

This [White Paper](#) (PDF, 871KB) helps to inform registered nurses in the United States about the role of nurses in antimicrobial stewardship. Much of the information in the White Paper can be adapted to the Australian context.

Education and training for nurses

- [Course: Antimicrobials: catheter-associated urinary tract infections](#)
- [Course: Antimicrobials: bacteraemia](#)
- [Course: Antimicrobials: community-acquired pneumonia](#)
- [Course: Antimicrobials: surgical prophylaxis](#)
- [Course: Managing UTIs in aged care](#)
- [Case study: Urinary tract infections: exploring antibiotic treatment](#)
- [Case study: Otitis media: clarifying the role of antibiotics](#)
- [RACF/Webstercare report: Antibiotics for urinary tract infections](#)
- [Medicines use review: Antibiotics in urinary tract infections: ensuring appropriate use](#)