

Rethink Your Antibiotic Treatment Time Course

Rethink: Dose, Duration, Indication...

1

When prescribing an antibiotic, make sure that the order contains dose, duration and indication.

2

Consider using appropriate decision-support tools and hospital policies and guidelines to choose the right antibiotics for the suspected focus of infection.

3

Include laboratory cultures as a routine component of ordering antibiotics.

4

Review antibiotics 24-48 hours after orders are initiated to answer these key questions:

- Does this patient have an infection that will respond to antibiotics?
- Is the patient on the right dose and route of administration? Ensure the dose is appropriate for renal function and suspected infection, and consider switching parenteral antibiotics to oral formulations.
- Can a more targeted antibiotic be used to treat the infection (de-escalate)?
- How long should the patient receive the antibiotic(s)?

5

Review antibiotics at daily multidisciplinary rounds using checklists or other reminders to discuss duration, indication and switching to oral route if appropriate with the care team.

6

Implement a daily time-out to consider de-escalation of antibiotics, particularly at 24-48 hours or when cultures are available. Use culture data to help guide the appropriate antibiotics.

References:

<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/implementation/core-elements.html>.

<http://www.cps.ca/documents/position/antimicrobial-stewardship>.

<http://www.dobugsneeddrugs.org/health-care-professionals/antimicrobial-stewardship/>.

