

# Antibiotic Stewardship

## WHAT IS IT?

Antibiotic stewardship refers to a set of commitments and activities designed to “optimize the treatment of infections while reducing the adverse events associated with antibiotic use.”

## WHY STEWARDSHIP?

- It is estimated that 50-70 % of NH patients will be prescribed a systemic antibiotic over the course of a year.
- 25-75 % of antibiotic use may be inappropriate.
- Inappropriate antimicrobial use increases the risk of multi-drug resistant infections, C. difficile, drug-drug interactions, and other adverse events.
- CMS Mega Rule effective 11/28/16 requires each facility to establish an Infection Prevention and Control Program (IPCP). By 11/28/17, an established antibiotic stewardship program should be in effect.

## WHAT DOES HEALTHDIRECT'S PROGRAM OFFER?

- In-services on antibiotic stewardship directed at both prescribing and nursing.
  - What is it?
  - How does a facility go about starting one up?
- Resources for families, caregivers, prescribers, and nursing on stewardship and the role of antibiotics (pamphlets, pocket guides, treatment guidelines, etc.)
- The HealthDirect Consultant Pharmacist will be a key member on your stewardship team. They will provide focused antibiotic reviews with every MRR and participate in stewardship meetings. They can offer not only their drug expertise, but can help you in selecting the most appropriate antibiotic for what you are treating, ensuring proper dosing and duration of therapy.
- The Pharmacy can assist you with renal dosing options and point out any major drug interactions at the time of first fill.
- Antibiotic Utilization reports
  - Reports the facilities antibiotic use per quarter so the facility can evaluate the progress of the program and compare their usage to other facilities.