

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure		
Antimicrobial Stewardship		
Effective: July 2016	Revised: September 2024	Due for Review: September 2026

POLICY

The leadership at the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) is committed to making evidence-based decisions regarding appropriate antibiotic use within this facility. Inappropriate and overuse of antibiotics is recognized as a serious health care issue. Over exposure to antibiotics allows the emergence of bacterial strains to become resistant to therapy.

There are 7 Core elements in the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in following the CDC’s program recommendations:

1. Leadership Commitment- dedicating necessary resources- financial, information technology and personnel –to be comprised of a multidisciplinary team (Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, Pharmacist, Medical Practitioners, IT specialist and consulting Infectious disease specialist as needed.)
2. Accountability-Pharmacist will champion the program.
3. Pharmacy Expertise- Director of Pharmacy will lead implementation efforts to improve antimicrobial usage.
4. Action-Implementing recommendations
5. Tracking-Monitoring the program, the antibiotics usage and the resistance patterns
6. Reporting- Regularly reporting finding to Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee meetings
7. Education- All Licensed Independent Practitioners and staff involved in the ordering, dispensing, administration and monitoring of antimicrobials will be educated on the antimicrobial stewardship program. All patients with a suspected or confirmed infection and family members, if applicable or necessary, will be educated on the appropriate use of antimicrobial therapy.

DEFINITIONS

Grievance: formal or informal written or verbal complaint that is made to the hospital by a hospitalized person or their representative regarding care and services at VPCH.

PROCEDURE

The Director of Pharmacy will champion the antimicrobial stewardship program, will be an active participant in the program, and function as a drug expert for the multidisciplinary team.

Pharmacy will keep an up-to-date list of all antimicrobials used within VPCH. Antimicrobial medications will be evaluated and approved as formulary by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee on an annual basis.

The VPCH Pharmacist will be responsible for appropriate antimicrobial usage. The correct medication, correct dose, correct route, correct patient, correct schedule. Weekly queries will be generated from the electronic health record and faxed to the Infection Preventionist Nurse or designee on all the antimicrobials administered to the VPCH patients for their evaluation and information.

Culture and sensitivity reports on suspected and confirmed infections will be ordered and obtained by medical providers when clinically indicated. The VPCH Pharmacist and the Infection Preventionist will review all culture and sensitivity reports received from the contracted laboratory services. Laboratory data will be directly shared to the infection prevention nurse via fax or email.

The Infection Preventionist with the aid of the Director of Pharmacy will track each disease, antimicrobial usage, culture and sensitivity report, relevant clinical information and adherence to evidenced based treatment recommendations.

Data will be reported to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at a minimum of quarterly.

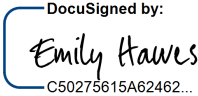
The Director of Pharmacy will work with the contracted laboratory on tracking of resistant organism and the Antibiogram that will be reported yearly to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. VPCH will implement changes if and when any improvement opportunities are identified.

The Director of Pharmacy and all Pharmacists will work closely with the Infection Preventionist Nurse and Education Department regarding education to all staff. All staff who will be involved in antibiotic ordering, dispensing, administration and monitoring will receive education regarding the antibiotic stewardship program upon hire and periodically as needed.

The Medical Director and Pharmacy Department will establish Guidelines for Antimicrobial use and assess the appropriateness of antibiotics- for diseases most likely encountered at VPCH including, but not limited to, community acquired pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections and urinary tract infections.

References

Joint Commission Standard MM 09.01.01

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	9/25/2024