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# Antimicrobial Stewardship Strategies Targeting Transitions of Care

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# Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify opportunities to improve antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) efforts targeting care transitions.
2. Evaluate evidence to support reducing antibiotic prescribing for asymptomatic bacteriuria.
3. Discuss strategies to improve antibiotic prescribing at hospital discharge.

The speaker has no conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this presentation

# Antimicrobial over use is RAMPANT

**55%** of all patients in hospitals receive an antibiotic

**Estimated 1/3 are not necessary**

Antibiotics are prescribed...

**39%** of urgent care visits

**36%** of retail clinic visits

**13%** of ED visits

**7%** of medical office visits

**% for VIRAL respiratory infections**

**16%** urgent care visits

**17%** retail clinic visits

**5%** ED visits

**6%** medical office visits

# Antibiotic Stewardship Core Elements



# Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASP)

System to improve antibiotic use, comprised of multidisciplinary personnel, information technology, diagnostics, interventions, tracking, reporting, and education

## Mission

Improve patient outcomes through optimization of antimicrobial therapy and to support the education of healthcare providers in appropriate antimicrobial use

## Goals

Improve  
patient  
outcomes

Improve  
patient safety

Reduce  
antibiotic  
overuse

Cost Effective  
Care

# Every Day Matters

9%

- 9% increased risk of *C. difficile* per day in patients receiving antibiotics for pneumonia

4%

- 4% increased risk of *P. aeruginosa* resistance to meropenem, pip/tazo, or cefepime for each day of therapy

3%

- Every 10 days of antibiotics is associated with a 3% increased risk of serious ADE

# Patient Case AB

AB is a 79-year-old male with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes on insulin, recurrent diabetic foot infections, and peripheral artery disease on rivaroxaban and aspirin, who presents to the ED by his family due to seeming more confused and tired than his baseline. He has no other symptoms. His labs and vitals are obtained and listed below.

## VITALS

BP	112/66 mmHg
HR	66 bpm
Temperature	98.6°

## PERTINENT LABS

WBC	9.7 K/ $\mu$ L
Hgb	13.5 g/dL
Na	137 mmol/L
SCr	0.9 mg/dL
BGL	46 mg/dL

## URINALYSIS

Leukocyte Esterase	Large
Nitrite	Positive
WBC	78 cells/mL
Squamous epithelial cells	2-3
Bacteria	Rare

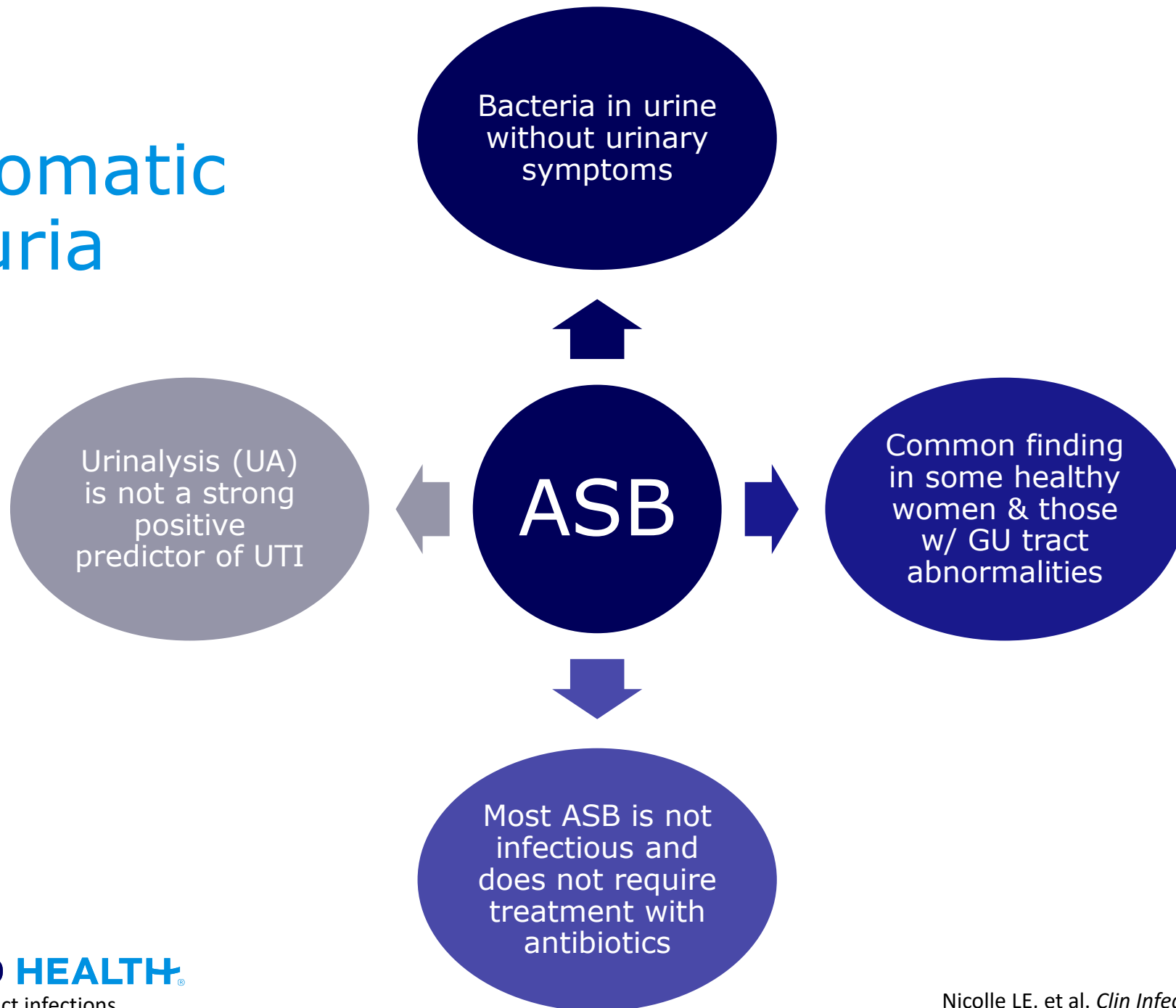
# Patient Case AB Treatment

The ED medical resident calls you and asks what treatment they should start for a suspected UTI. What would your recommendation be for AB?

- A. Ceftriaxone IV for a urinary tract infection
- B. Vancomycin and cefepime for possible sepsis
- C. Hold antibiotics and consider Andexxa alfa for a possible bleed
- D. Hold antibiotics and IV dextrose for hypoglycemia



# What is Asymptomatic Bacteriuria (ASB)?





# Antimicrobial Overuse for ASB in the Emergency Department (ED)



43 hospitals in the Michigan Hospital Medicine Safety Consortium (HMS)

N = 2,461 patients in ED w/ ASB, 74.4% received antibiotics

UC ordered in 80% of patients (most common reason: abnormal UA; others: AMS, spinal cord injury, dementia, urinary catheter) & initiated tx in 68.5% (n=1253)

Once initiated, 79% remained on antibiotics for  $\geq 3$  days. Most common discharge antibiotic = ciprofloxacin

Antibiotic treatment →

- Longer length of stay (5.1 vs 4.2 days; relative risk = 1.16; 95% CI, 1.08–1.23)
- CDI more common: 0.9% vs 0%; P = .02

# Strategies to Reduce Treatment for ASB

## Antibiotic Stewardship Strategies

### Education

- Education of symptoms, ASB treatment, & an algorithm in the ED: ↓ in patients treated for ASB: 39.6% vs. 23.1% (p=0.004) post intervention in a study by James, et al.

### Audit and Feedback

### Optimization of the Electronic Health Record

### Antibiotic Restriction (i.e. fluoroquinolone)

### Updated Institutional Treatment Guidelines

# Strategies to Reduce Treatment for ASB

## Diagnostic Stewardship Strategies

Audit and Feedback

Education

Remove/Change urine culture testing from order sets (ED, pre-surgical, admission)

Hide/Change urine culture result reporting

- Hiding positive urine culture results from clinicians reduced antibiotic initiation for ASB from 48% to 12% (P=0.002) in a study by Leis, et al.
- Urine culture report including a laboratory nudge discouraging treatment of ASB improved optimal treatment from 29 of 55 (52.7%) vs. 44 of 55 (80.0%) (P=0.002), by Daley et al.

Add/Remove reflex testing

Optimization of Electronic Health Record

# Strategies to Reduce Treatment for ASB

## Multi-faceted Approach

Cash MC, et al.  
*Antimicrob  
Steward Healthc  
Epidemiol.* 2022

- **Intervention:** Verbal presentation to physicians and pharmacists, pocket card and treatment algorithm creation and distribution, alerts embedded into the EHR when ordering urine cultures, and elimination of reflex urine culture order
- **Results:** Significant reduction in inappropriate prescribing for ASB (100% vs. 32.4% vs. 28%,  $p < 0.001$ )

MacLaggan TD,  
et al. *Infect  
Control Hosp  
Epidemiol.* 2019

- **Intervention:** Nursing and prescriber education, modification of positive urine culture reporting, pharmacist-led prospective audit-and-feedback
- **Results:** 50.8% reduction in ASB treatment (67.3% vs. 16.5%)

# Back to Patient Case AB

Question 2: AB is given IV dextrose, started on IV ceftriaxone for urinary tract infection, and admitted to the floor. What is a possible consequence of starting IV ceftriaxone in the ED?

- A. AB will develop *Clostridium difficile*.
- B. AB will be discharged with a 10-14 day course of antibiotics.
- C. AB will develop resistance to ceftriaxone.
- D. All of the above.

# Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections: Short Course Beta-Lactams

Open-label, multicenter, RCT evaluating antibiotic duration for the treatment of uncomplicated UTI (uUTI) in women



3 days of cefpodoxime 100 mg PO BID (n=63)  
3 days of TMP/SMX 1 DS PO BID (n=70)



Results: 3-day course of cefpodoxime is as safe and effective as a 3-day course of TMP/SMX for the treatment of uUTI in women



# Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections: Three Days of Ceftriaxone

Retrospective cohort study evaluating antibiotic duration for the treatment of uncomplicated UTI (uUTI) in both men and women



3 days of ceftriaxone (n=51)  
Longer duration of therapy, median 6 days (n=49)

Results: 3-day course of ceftriaxone is as safe and effective as a longer duration for the treatment of uUTI

# Urinary Tract Infections in Males: Duration of Therapy

Retrospective cohort evaluating the correlation between duration of antibiotic therapy and UTI recurrence in males

457 males without complicating factors:

- 50.9% prescribed  $\leq 7$  days
- 49.1% prescribed  $>7$  days

**No difference in UTI recurrence in males treated for  $\leq 7$  days vs.  $>7$  days**

# Urinary Tract Infections in Males: Duration of Therapy

Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled noninferiority trial

Compared 7 days of TMP/SMX or ciprofloxacin to 14 days for treatment of UTI in afebrile men

Primary endpoint: symptom resolution 14 days after completing active therapy

7 days noninferior to 14 days for uncomplicated UTI in males

# But are All Men Really... Complicated?

## Old Definitions: 2011 IDSA Guidelines

### Uncomplicated UTI:

- Acute cystitis in a healthy nonpregnant afebrile woman w/ no diabetes or urologic abnormalities

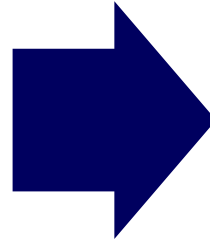


### Acute Pyelonephritis



### Complicated UTI:

- Everything else



## New Definitions: 2023 IDSA Guidelines Being Updated

### Complicated UTI: infection beyond the bladder

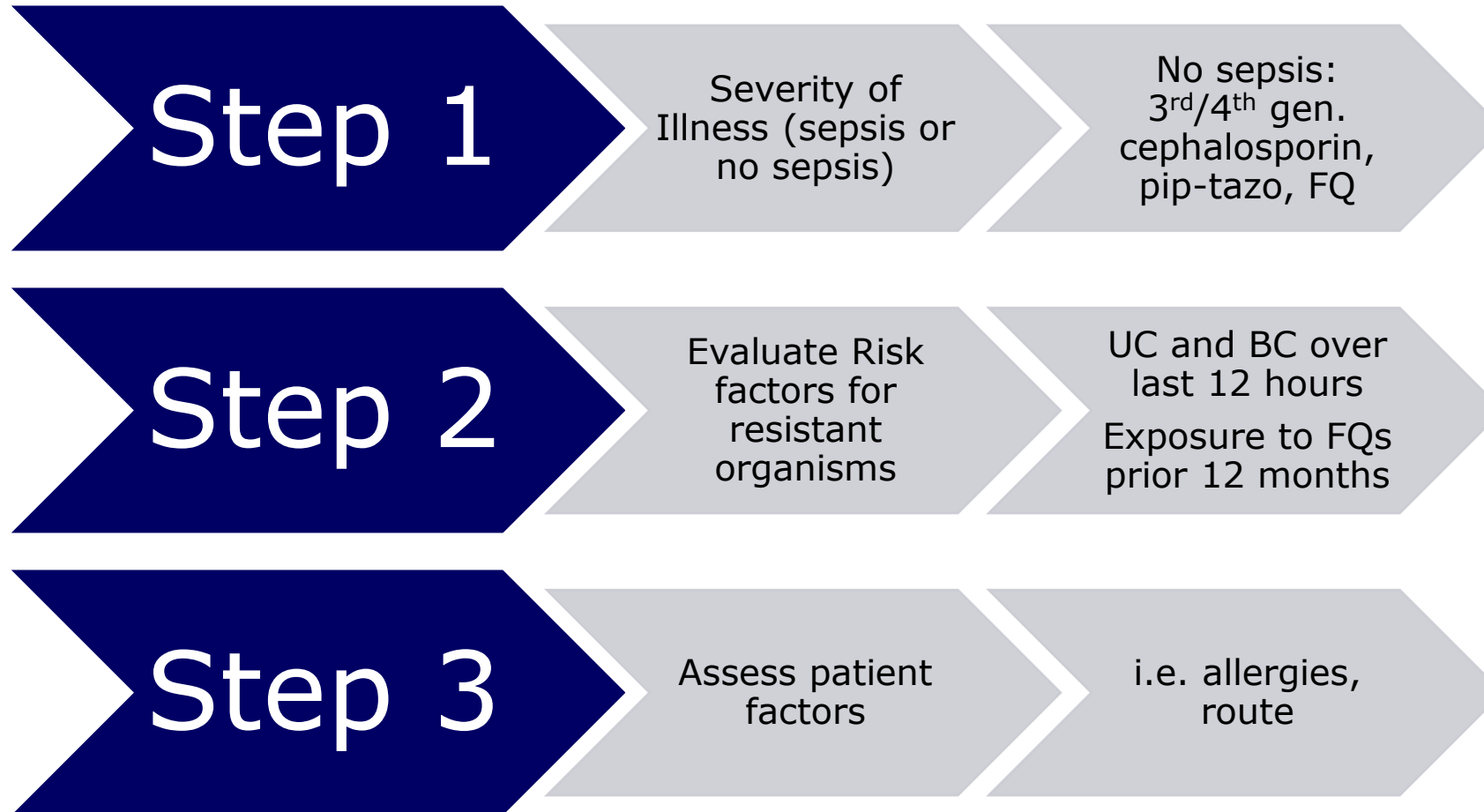
- Pyelonephritis
- CAUTI
- Febrile or bacteremic UTI



### Uncomplicated UTI:

- Everything else (women or men)

# New Definition of cUTI: Empiric Therapy



# New Definition of cUTI: Duration of Therapy

Consider 7 days of therapy for patients with pyelonephritis, gram negative bacteremia 2/2 UTI with prompt clinical response, complicated UTI for women (all) and men without prostatitis

# Back to Patient Case AB

Question 3: AB improves after a day on the floor and the primary team is adamant about discharging him with antibiotics to finish the course for a UTI. What would be your recommendation for an optimal total duration of therapy?

- A. 3 days of cefpodoxime for an complicated UTI
- B. 3-5 days of sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim for an uncomplicated UTI
- C. 10-14 days of cefpodoxime for a complicated UTI
- D. 7 days of ciprofloxacin for a complicated UTI

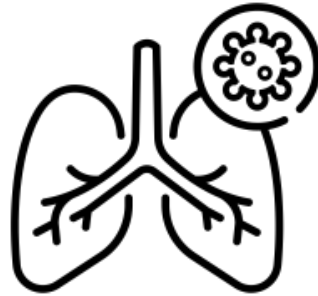
# Antibiotic Overuse at Hospital Discharge

- Less than 1 in 5 hospitals with antimicrobial stewardship programs monitor antibiotic use after discharge
- In a study of 21,825 patients treated for infection:



**49.1%**

Antibiotic overuse  
after discharge



**63.1%**

Overuse in pneumonia  
due to excess antibiotic  
duration



**34.2%**

Prescribed  
fluoroquinolones at  
discharge



# Strategies to Target Prescribing at Hospital Discharge

## Purpose

Evaluated a pharmacist-driven intervention to improve selection and duration of oral antibiotics at discharge

## Primary Outcome

Frequency of optimized antimicrobial prescription

## Method

Non-randomized stepped wedge design

9/1/2018 – 8/21/2019

## Population

Adults with uncomplicated infections

+

Prescribed antibiotics at discharge

## Intervention

Pharmacist direct engagement in antimicrobial stewardship program transitions of care process (ASP TOC)

# Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Transition of Care (ASP TOC)

## ASP TOC Intervention Steps



**Who?**

- Academic Model: all pharmacists practicing on general medical wards
- Community Model: AMS Pharmacist leads intervention



**Identify Patients**

- EHR column of anticipated discharge, discussion during teaching rounds and/or progressive rounds



**Communicate & Collaborate**

- Pharmacist discusses plan during rounds or calls/messages provider



**Order & Document**

- Pharmacist enters discharge prescription order in EHR, co-signed by physician
- Pharmacist writes ASP TOC EHR progress note

# Key Steps in Intervention Implementation

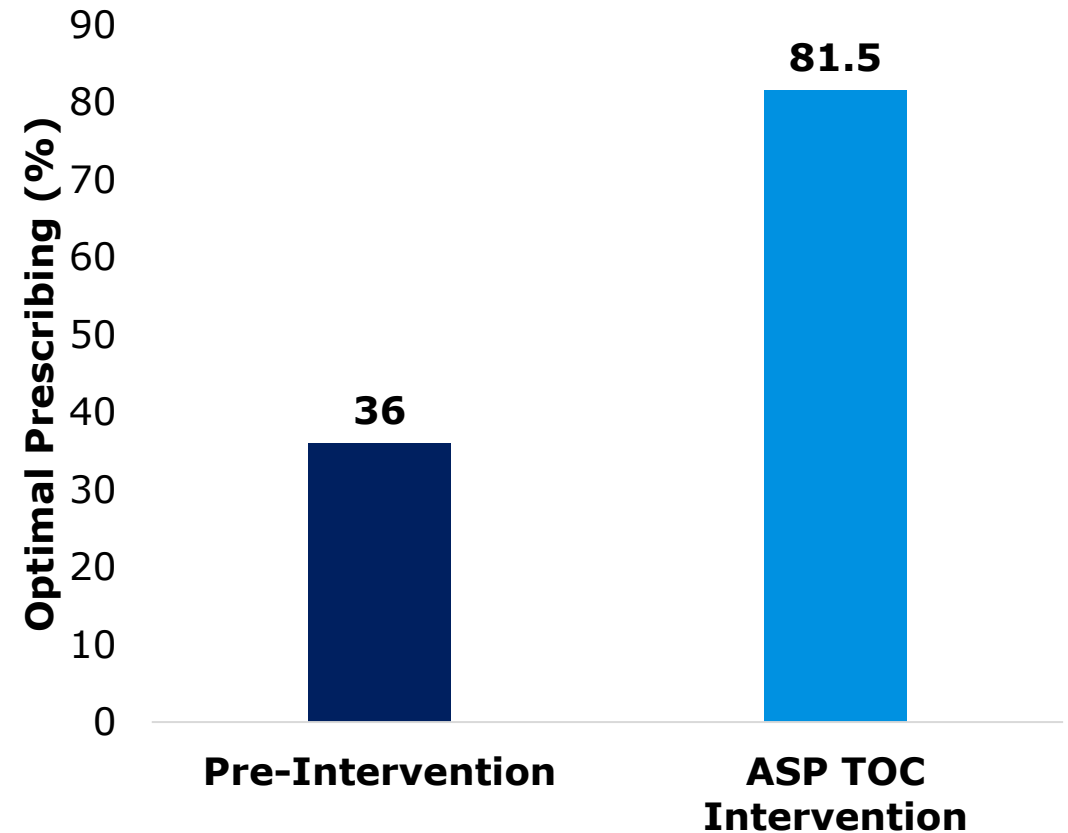
- Stakeholder Discussion
- Workflow Plan for Pharmacists
- Institutional Guideline Support for Pharmacists
- Educational Overview for Physicians, Nurses
- Electronic Templates for Documentation
- Metrics for Success

	Disease state	Regimen and dosage	Total Duration
Respiratory Infections	Community-acquired pneumonia (without microbiologic data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amox/clav 1000/62.5 mg 2 tabs BID + azithro 500 mg daily <u>or</u> doxy 100 mg BID</li> <li>Amoxicillin 1000 mg TID + azithro 500 mg daily <u>or</u> doxy 100 mg BID</li> <li>Cefpodoxime 400 mg BID + azithro 500 mg daily <u>or</u> doxy 100 mg BID</li> <li>Beta-lactam allergy: Moxifloxacin 400 mg or levofloxacin 750 mg daily</li> </ul>	5 days (prompt clinical response) 7 days (structural lung disease or delayed response)
	Acute Exacerbation of COPD (AECOPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doxycycline 100 mg BID (preferred)</li> <li>Azithromycin 500 mg or 250 mg</li> </ul>	5 days
	Hospital acquired pneumonia (without microbiological data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moxifloxacin 400 mg OR levofloxacin 750 mg daily</li> </ul>	7 days without clinical response: tailor therapy to microbiologic data
Urinary Tract Infections	Uncomplicated UTI/cystitis (align with organism susceptibility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrofurantoin (NFT) 100 mg BID</li> <li>Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim (SMT) 1 DS tab BID</li> <li>Beta-lactam (targeted to organism)</li> <li>Fosfomycin 3 gm oral sachet (if ESBL history)</li> </ul>	NFT: 5 days SMT: 3 days BL: 3-7 days Fosfomycin: 1-2 doses
	Complicated UTI/ pyelonephritis (align with organism susceptibility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMT 1-2 DS tab BID</li> <li>Ciprofloxacin 500 mg BID</li> <li>Beta-lactam (targeted to organism)</li> </ul>	SMT : 7 days Fluoroquinolones: 7 days BL: 7 days
	Asymptomatic bacteriuria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not treat unless pregnant or urologic procedure</li> </ul>	0 days
SSTI	Non-purulent cellulitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cephalexin 500 mg QID, cefuroxime 500 mg BID</li> <li>Dicloxacillin 500 mg QID</li> <li>Severe BL allergy: Clindamycin 300-450 mg TID</li> </ul>	5 days with prompt clinical response
	Purulent cellulitis/ cutaneous abscess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doxycycline 100 mg BID</li> <li>SMT 1-2 DS BID</li> </ul>	5 days with prompt clinical response
IAI	Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moxifloxacin 400 mg daily or levofloxacin 750 mg daily</li> </ul>	5 days
	Complicated, community acquired intra-abdominal infection with source control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moxifloxacin 400 mg daily</li> <li>Ciprofloxacin 500 mg BID + metronidazole 500 mg BID/TID</li> <li>Cefuroxime 500 mg BID + metronidazole 500 mg BID/TID</li> <li>Amoxicillin/clavulanate 875/125 mg BID</li> </ul>	4-7 days after source control

# ASP TOC Outcomes: Improved Discharge Prescribing

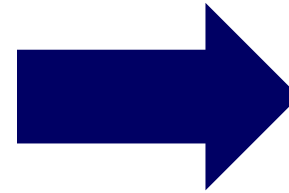
## Result

↑ Optimal antibiotic prescribing  
at discharge from  
36% to 81.5%

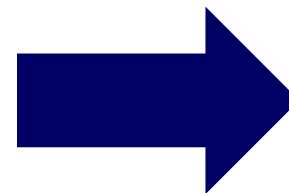


## Overall Results

Pharmacists collaborating and pending the discharge order increased appropriate discharge antibiotic regimens by 46%



Reduces antibiotic harm



Improves patient outcomes



## Limitations of Completing the ASP TOC Intervention Identified

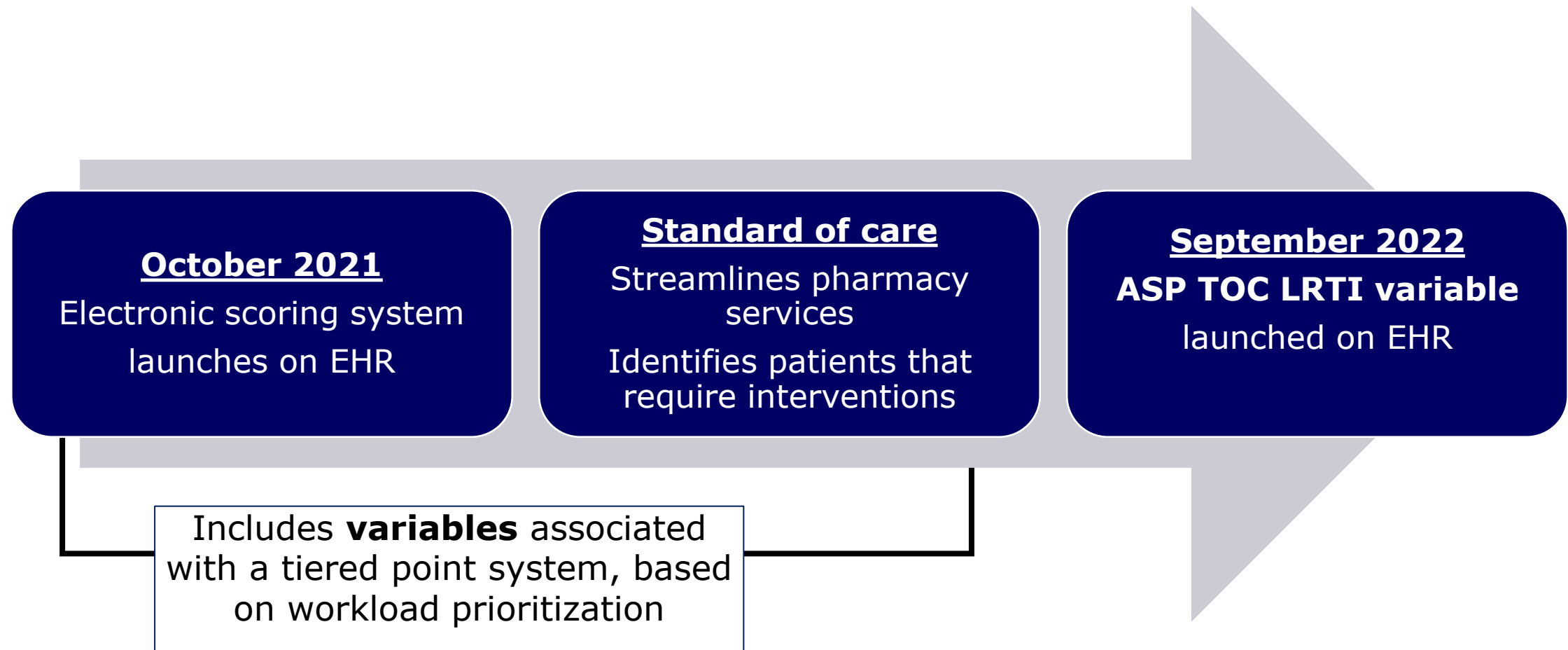


Inconsistent methods in identifying patients eligible for interventions

Weekend or “off-hours” staffing

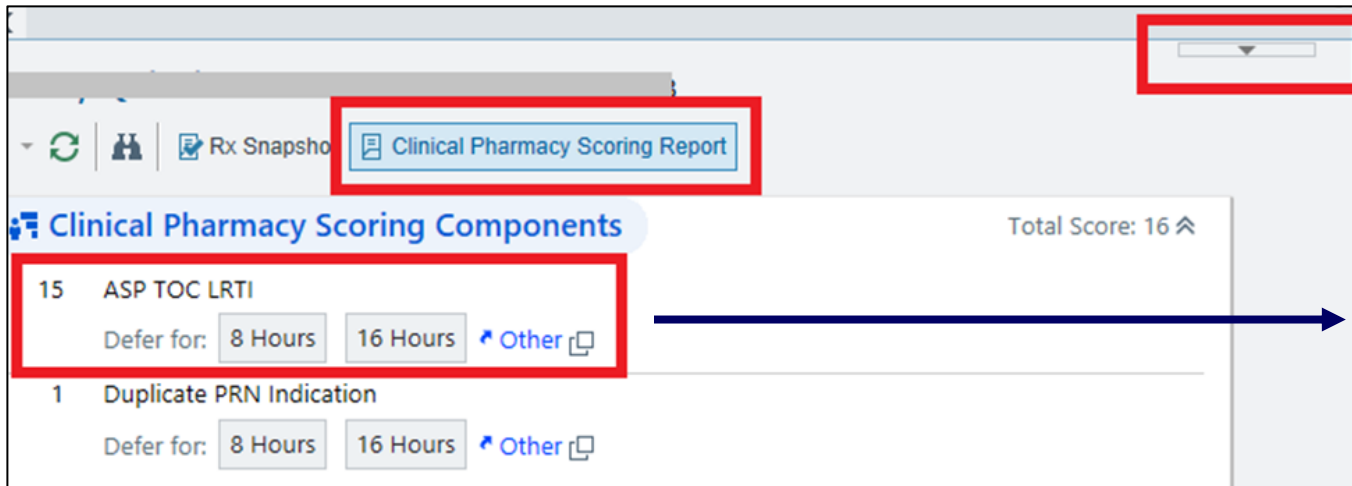
Inaccurate “anticipated discharge dates” on EHR

# Addressing the Limitation: Using an Electronic Scoring System





# Electronic Scoring System: ASP TOC LRTI Variable



ASP TOC  
LRTI Variable

**Antibiotics**  
ceftriaxone, doxycycline,  
azithromycin, ampicillin-  
sulbactam, moxifloxacin

Antibiotics > 48 hours

**Indication**  
Lower Respiratory Tract  
Infection



# Steps to Use the ASP TOC Variable



Clinical Pharmacy Scoring Report

Clinical Pharmacy Scoring Components Total Score: 16

15 ASP TOC LRTI  
Defer for: 8 Hours 16 Hours Other

1 Duplicate PRN Indication  
Defer for: 8 Hours 16 Hours Other

## Pharmacist completes ASP TOC Intervention

- 1) Finalize discharge antibiotic regimen with primary team
- 2) Write ASP TOC Progress Note
- 3) Write antibiotic discharge prescription order

**Identify patients eligible for ASP TOC interventions**



# Results of Using the ASP TOC Variable

Endpoint	Pre-Intervention N = 100	Post-Intervention N = 100	P-value
<b>Primary Endpoint</b>			
Proportion with optimized discharge regimen (n, %)	69 (69)	82 (82)	0.033
<b>Secondary Endpoint</b>			
Proportion of ASP TOC interventions completed (n, %)	4 (4)	25 (25)	< 0.001
Adverse effects	5 (5)	3 (3)	0.0721
Emergency department visits	29 (29)	21 (21)	0.191
Readmission	21 (21)	14 (14)	0.193
Primary care physician clinic visits	1 (1)	2 (2)	0.561
Length of stay (days, IQR)	3.79 (2.9-4.9)	3.73 (2.7-4.6)	0.839

# Checking Discharge Medication Access Using an Electronic System

The screenshot displays a software interface for managing medication orders. A 'Test Prescriptions' dialog box is open, showing the following details:

- Test Prescriptions:** LINEZOLID 600 MG TABLET
- Frequency:** (Empty field)
- Duration:** (Empty field)
- Duration:** Doses Days (Buttons)
- Dose:** (Empty field)
- Dispense:** (Empty field)
- Process Instructions:** THIS IS NOT AN ACTUAL MEDICATION ORDER. If prior authorization is needed it will be completed unless you specify otherwise in comment section below.
- Comments:** (Rich text editor with 'Insert SmartText' and other tools)

The background interface includes a 'Manage Orders' header with tabs for Active, Signed Held, Home Meds, Authorize, TPN, Order History, and Future Outpatient. A search bar contains the text 'cost'. A 'Scheduled' tab is active. At the bottom, a medication entry for 'albuterol (VENTOLIN HFA) 90 mcg/actuation inhaler 2 puff' is visible, along with 'Sign & Hold' and 'Sign & Verify' buttons.

# Discharge Medication Access Breakdown

DMCI Consult Order Result	Number, n (%)	Medication Class	Number, n (%)
Covered	849 (60.8)	Anticoagulant	2245 (55.7)
Prior auth required	174 (12.4)	Respiratory Inhaler	602 (14.9)
Not covered	124 (8.9)	<b>Antimicrobial</b>	<b>428 (10.6)</b>
No insurance	71 (5.1)	Antidiabetic	220 (5.4)
Deductible not met	48 (3.4)	Antiplatelet	143 (3.6)
Other*	131 (9.4)	Antihypertensive	87 (2.2)
		Analgesic	58 (1.4)
		Cardiac	47 (1.2)

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