



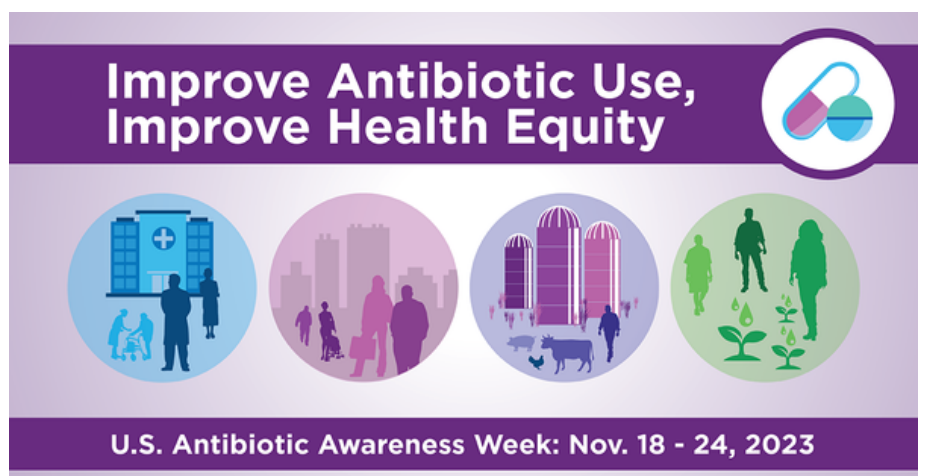
The Antimicrobial Stewardship and Resistance Update

Quarterly newsletter providing updates on news, reports, research, policies, and events related to antimicrobial stewardship and resistance in California.

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#GoPurple for U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week 2023



This year for U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW), November 18-24, 2023, we are supporting CDC's latest campaign, **Improve Antibiotic Use, Improve Health Equity** (www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/usaaw/), to raise awareness of the importance of addressing antibiotic and antifungal use, preventing infections in the first place, and limiting emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance to help address health inequities. Health inequities from less-than-optimal prescribing practices can impact health outcomes, and lead to an increase in antimicrobial resistance or related adverse events in some populations. Many risks for antimicrobial-resistant infections are tied to social determinants of health and other factors that contribute to disparities in health out-

comes (PDF) (www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/health-equity-antibiotic-resistance-fs-508.pdf). The CDC provides an [online toolkit](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/USAAW-2023-toolkit-508.pdf) (PDF) (www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/USAAW-2023-toolkit-508.pdf), with many tools for promoting antimicrobial stewardship (AS) and health equity, including through social media messaging. CDPH will also post some great resources and updates on our AS website, including facility USAAW survey results and a “What AS Means to Me” compilation video. Look out for our updated [Antimicrobial Awareness Resources](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AAResources.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AAResources.aspx) webpage coming soon.



Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together

*Wear purple November 18-24 to show support for
U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week 2023!*

Cold, flu and COVID-19 season is here again. With schools back in session and as we start spending more time indoors, let's try to keep ourselves and our patients healthy. Remind staff and patients to get their flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations to prevent serious illness, including [Long COVID](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html) (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html). CDC recommends getting the latest COVID-19 vaccine for the 2023-2024 season to protect yourself and others from becoming infected (www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/whats-new/covid-vaccine-recommendations-9-12-2023.html).

Telemedicine and Antimicrobial Stewardship

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of telemedicine has become more popular among individuals accessing healthcare services, including antimicrobials. [Retrospective studies](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35906829/) (pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35906829/) have found antimicrobial prescribing during telehealth visits to be higher than urgent care and primary care settings. There are many barriers to AS in the telehealth setting, including a lack of diagnostic services, inability to complete physical examinations, and changes to the patient-provider relationship. Alternate telemedicine companies, such as direct-to-consumer (DTC) telemedicine services, connect patients with virtual providers and prescriptions more quickly and with less hassle than traditional telemedicine or in-person appointments. Some DTC companies advertise easy access to prescriptions and [patients report highest satisfaction](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6153236/) ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6153236/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6153236/)) with their visit if they receive a prescription. Telemedicine provides critical care for remote settings but there is a clear need for AS as well. Utilizing the core elements of outpatient stewardship could be a useful [framework for DTC and telemedicine services](https://academic.oup.com/jac/article/77/1/13/6383058) (academic.oup.com/jac/article/77/1/13/6383058).

Unnecessary broad-spectrum antibiotics might be prescribed in as many as 68% of visits in direct-to-consumer telemedicine settings.

(pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30962253/)



New NHSN AUR Module



New changes to the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program include the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR) Module (www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/11pscaurcurrent.pdf). In 2024, both the Antimicrobial Use (AU) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) options will be required for all acute care and critical access hospitals. The module provides a mechanism for facilities to analyze AU or AR data to inform benchmarking, reduce antimicrobial-resistant infections through AS, and interrupt transmission of resistant pathogens in individual facilities or facility networks. All hospitals must submit their data through an approved vendor. See a list of AU (www.cdc.gov/nhsn/cdaportal/sds/au-vendor-list.html) and AR (www.cdc.gov/nhsn/cdaportal/sds/ar-vendor-list.html) validated vendors. Hospitals will be able to submit a hardship exemption if needed (link not yet open for 2024).

For more information on the new module, please refer to the NHSN Antimicrobial AUR Module Protocol (www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/11pscaurcurrent.pdf) and the Promoting Interoperability website (www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms) for the most recent updates.

NHSN Office Hours Session: Tuesday, December 5: 1:00-2:00 PM ET

- [Registration Link](https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_M0ba-W2wS6KX4DNn4NbF_A) (cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_M0ba-W2wS6KX4DNn4NbF_A)

CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll Updates



In 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated their interpretive guidance for hospital infection prevention and control and antibiotic stewardship programs (PDF) (www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-20-hospitals.pdf). The Joint Commission subsequently published new and revised AS requirements (www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/r3reports/r3_antibioticstewardship_july2022_final.pdf), effective January 1, 2023. In August 2023, the CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx) was updated to match the current standards. The 9 prioritized items previously required for Silver were combined with the minimum documentation requirements for Bronze status. New minimum documentation requirements include 2 examples for facility-specific guidance for AU for common infections and examples of competency-based AS education. All designations are valid for 3 years and expire 3 years and 3 months after the deadline.

CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll, CDC, Joint Commission and CMS Comparison Chart




Interested in learning how the CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll can help your facility prepare for Joint Commission and CMS visits? Check out the new [comparison chart](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/HonorRollComparisonChart.pdf), (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/HonorRollComparisonChart.pdf) linked on our FAQ page!

ASP Honor Roll Designation Criteria

CDC Core Elements - Part II

Criteria for Designation*	 Bronze	 Silver	 Gold
Complete all minimum documentation* requirements from each of CDC's 7 Core Elements	X	X	X

Outcomes and Engagement - Part III and IV

Criteria for Designation*	 Bronze	 Silver	 Gold
Demonstrate outcomes of interventions/projects - Part III		X	X
Demonstrate engagement with Community Partners - Part IV			X

*For activities during the 3-year period prior to the deadline

**HAI Program minimum documentation items were chosen based on how hospitals responded to the NHSN Annual Survey ASP-related questions, a literature review, current Joint Commission and CMS standards, and a focus group of ASP pharmacists.



CDPH ASP Honor Roll Map

Not sure when your ASP Honor Roll designation expires?

Visit the [CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll Map](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HonorRoll_InteractiveMap.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HonorRoll_InteractiveMap.aspx) to check when you need to reapply for the Honor Roll and learn what other facilities in your region are participating in the Honor Roll!

Antimicrobial Resistance Updates



CDPH is collaborating with [WastewaterSCAN](http://data.wastewaterscan.org/) (data.wastewaterscan.org/) to conduct wastewater surveillance for *Candida auris* in select California sewersheds. See the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) (PDF) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Cauris_Wastewater_FAQ.pdf) for more information.



C. auris has been reportable in California since September 2022. CDPH has published a table and map of *C. auris* cases that will be updated monthly on our [website](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Candida-auris.aspx).

Spotlight On...

Local Public Health Laboratory

Congratulations to our colleagues in Contra Costa County, who have rolled out carbapenemase testing at their local public health laboratory (PHL)! Contra Costa PHL can now offer polymerase chain reaction (PCR) colonization testing for rectal swab screening of carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs). CPO colonization testing is an excellent way to prevent spread of these antimicrobial-resistant pathogens at facilities with patients at high risk of CPO acquisition or transmission, such as long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs) and ventilator-equipped skilled nursing facilities.

C. *auris* Admission Screening

With suspected transmission of C. *auris* in Northern California (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/C-AHAN/Emergence-of-Candida-auris-in-Healthcare-Facilities-in-Northern-California.aspx), CDPH recommends that all LTACHs screen patients on admission for *C. auris*. Three of 7 LTACHs in Northern California regularly conduct *C. auris* admission screening, which has yielded 6 cases during January-October 2023. All LTACHs not currently conducting admission screening for *C. auris* are encouraged to begin doing so.

Sutter Health



Congratulations to Sutter Health for having all acute care hospitals on the CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll! We applaud your commitment to AS across all of your facilities.

CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll Gold Designations



In each newsletter, we will spotlight some gold status ASP Honor Roll members (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx). This quarter, we would like to highlight facilities from our 2022 Honor Roll enrollment periods when seven facilities received gold designations. Each exemplified community engagement in different areas.

Mentoring or Supporting Less Resourced Facilities

- Sharp Grossmont Hospital
- Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
- San Antonio Regional Hospital

Collaborations to Improve Antimicrobial Stewardship

- St. John's Hospital Camarillo
- St. John's Regional Medical Center
- University of California Irvine Medical Center

Direct Engagement with Outpatient Partners in the Community

- St. Bernadine Medical Center

Upcoming...



CDPH HAI ASP Honor Roll

- Deadline: March 1, 2024 and September 1, 2024
- Visit the [ASP Honor Roll webpage](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx) for more information on updated application requirements.



Acute Care Hospital (ACH) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Online Training:

- Every Tuesday at 10 AM; [ACH IPC online course registration link](https://reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspxas=76&wp=908&aid=HAIP) (reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspxas=76&wp=908&aid=HAIP)
- [Weekly office hour Zoom webinar](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82184471305) (us06web.zoom.us/j/82184471305)



Local Health Department Infection Preventionist Education & Support Forum

- Every 3rd Thursday at 2 PM
- [Zoom webinar link](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9JaE_OWGSYK7aNvpneFAOQ) (us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9JaE_OWGSYK7aNvpneFAOQ)



Enhanced Standard Precautions for SNFs Webinar

- [Registration link](https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0076-0013-cfe98cfaa0214f2e9f853a94b2757b9d) (reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0076-0013-cfe98cfaa0214f2e9f853a94b2757b9d)



Stay Connected with CDPH

CDPH HAI Websites

Visit the CDPH webpages for more information and resources.

- CDPH [HAI Program](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAI/ProgramHome.aspx) page (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/HAI/ProgramHome.aspx)
- CDPH [Antimicrobial Stewardship](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialStewardshipLandingPage.aspx) page (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialStewardshipLandingPage.aspx)
- CDPH [Antimicrobial Resistance](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialResistanceLandingPage.aspx) page (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/AntimicrobialResistanceLandingPage.aspx)

CDPH HAI Newsletters

Subscribe to our [HAI Program quarterly newsletters](https://cdph-marketing.powerappsportals.com/HAI/HAI-Registration/) (cdph-marketing.powerappsportals.com/HAI/HAI-Registration/) to receive updates on our initiatives and education opportunities.

CDPH Listserv

To stay connected with all things AS at CDPH, join the [California Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative Network \(ASCN\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ASCN.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ASCN.aspx).



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