



# Antifungal stewardship: best practice

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[www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/CIDM-PH](http://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/CIDM-PH)



# DISCLOSURES

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- Antifungal Advisory Board of MSD Australia, Gilead Sciences Inc., F2G Ltd.
- Speakers Fees, Gilead Sciences, Inc.

# Agenda

- Why is antifungal stewardship (“AFS” .... AMS) important ?
  - **Slow down “AMR” (or “AFR”); which fungi to worry about?**
- What is AMS?
  - AMS strategies - what can we learn from bacteria (and viruses)
  - Who does it?
- What is the evidence supporting it?

# AMR: a global problem

WHO declared AMR as one of the  
**Top 10**

global health threats

- 700,000 deaths/year globally
- 500,000 multi-drug resistant TB/year
- 58,000 newborns die/year in India
- 870,000 disability adjusted life years/year in EU

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-action-plan-on-antimicrobial-resistance>



# AMR: a national (Aussie) problem

## Australia's top three resistant bacterial threats



**CRE**

Carbapenemase-resistant enterobacteriaceae

Up to half of bloodstream infections caused by CRE result in death



**MRSA**

Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus

MRSA can cause skin and wound infections, pneumonia and bloodstream infections. It is one of the most common causes of health care-associated infections



**VRE**

Vancomycin-resistant enterococcus faecium

VRE can cause bloodstream, surgical site and urinary tract infections

Prof. John Turnidge  
Dr. Jan bell  
Prof Karin Thursky

**AURA**

(Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia)

Report 2019

**No** mention of fungi

# What causes antifungal resistance

Antifungal use

Poor hand hygiene

Travel

**Fungi :**

- Turn on genes responsible for resistance
- Change to protect themselves (B)
- Receive resistant genes from other fungi (B)

Poor infection prevention and control

Agriculture and environment

# The main players

- *Candida* species – *N. glabratus*, ***C. auris***, *C. tropicalis*, others
- *Aspergillus fumigatus* complex (***A. fumigatus sensu stricto***)
- Increasingly – ***Lomentospora***, *Fusarium*, Mucorales
- Non-*Candida* uncommon (rare) yeasts

# Inherited and acquired resistance: yeasts

Fungus (examples)	Inherent "R"	Acquired "R"
<i>N. glabratus</i>	Triazoles	Echinocandins
' <i>C. krusei</i> '	Triazoles	Echinocandins
<i>C. auris</i>	Azoles, (AMB, S Asia)	Echinocandins
<i>Trichosporon</i>	Echinocandins, AMB	Fluconazole
<i>Saccharomyces/ Malassezia</i>	Echinocandins	Fluconazole
<i>Rhodotorula</i>	Triazoles	
<i>Saprochaete/ Magnusiomyces</i>	Echinocandins	



# Inherited and acquired resistance: moulds

Fungus	Inherent resistance	Acquired resistance
<i>A. fumigatus</i>	Fluconazole	Voriconazole, isavuconazole
<i>A. terreus</i>	Fluconazole, AMB	Voriconazole, isavuconazole
<i>A. flavus</i>	Fluconazole, AMB	Voriconazole, isavuconazole
Mucorales	Fluconazole, voriconazole	?
<i>Fusarium</i> spp.	Echinocandins, variably to AMB, triazoles	?
<i>Lomentospora prolificans</i>	Pan-resistant	?

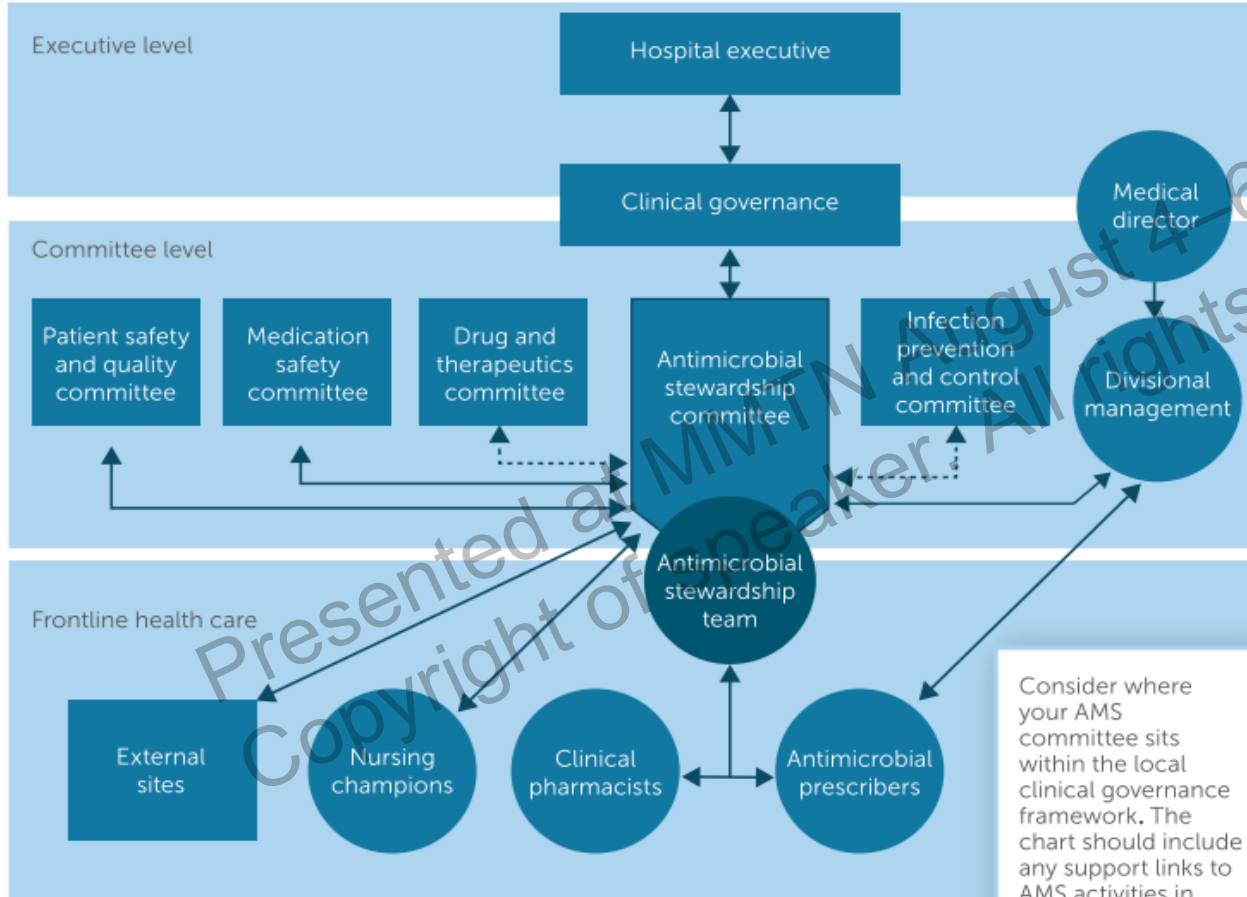
# ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP (AMS)

- Systematic approach to optimising use of antimicrobials (antifungals)
- Aim:
  - Reduce inappropriate antifungal use
  - Improve patient outcomes
  - Reduce adverse effects/toxicity
  - *Reduce development of antimicrobial resistance*
  - Reduce costs

# Essential AMS strategies

1. Establish a multidisciplinary AMS team
2. AMS policy (restricted antimicrobial formulary)
3. Education to prescribers, pharmacists, nurses and consumers
4. Implement clinical guidelines consistent with eTG (e-therapeutic guidelines); local bodies
5. Review antimicrobial prescribing with intervention and feedback  
Monitor antimicrobial use and outcomes

# AMS structure (team)



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# AMS policy and antimicrobial formulary restrictions

Pharmacy formulary - List of medications available for use in a hospital

- Determined by hospital Drug and Therapeutics Committee

Formulary restrictions

- Formulary may include further restrictions of use either
  - By prescriber (e.g. infectious diseases only)
  - By indication (e.g. piperacillin/tazobactam for febrile neutropenia)
  - Determined by AMS committee
- Commonly used “traffic light system”

# Antimicrobial formulary

Antimicrobial category	Details and examples
Unrestricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can be prescribed without an approval</li><li>• Examples include benzylpenicillin and doxycycline</li></ul>
Restricted or 'protected'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require an approval within a nominated time of the medicine being prescribed (e.g. within 24 hours)</li><li>• Individual prescription review is required for prolonged use (beyond 48–72 hours)</li><li>• Examples include broad-spectrum antimicrobials with potential to promote resistance – such as ceftriaxone, vancomycin, ciprofloxacin and meropenem – and those that are common targets for antimicrobial stewardship programs</li></ul>
Highly restricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require discussion with a nominated expert to obtain approval before the medicine can be initiated, to ensure that use is appropriate and to enable ongoing patient follow-up</li><li>• Often, a full, formal, specialist clinical consultation for these patients is also recommended</li><li>• Examples include antimicrobials viewed as last-line agents and reserved for highly resistant pathogens, or medicines with high potential toxicity or high cost, such as echinocandins, colistin and linezolid</li></ul>

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# Management restricted approvals

- There are a few approaches tailored to hospitals workflow/resources:
  1. Electronic approval system/Clinical Decision Support
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> party e.g. *Guidance*, *eASY*, *IDEA3S*, *TheraDOC*, *Treat*
  2. AMS Pager
  3. AMS hotline

# ANTIMICROBIAL ADVICE AND APPROVALS

## Guidance MS

- Electronic decision support and approval system
  - **MANDATORY** to obtain approvals for restricted antimicrobials
- Training for interns, jRMOs



# Education

- Passive
- *Active*
- Opportunistic: AMS rounds
- *E-resources*
- Clinical guidelines: AFWG, ANZMIG, IDSA, ECMM
- Phone apps

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# Review Antimicrobial prescribing

- Regular antimicrobial review and feedback to prescriber is the **Cornerstone of AMS**
- Most widely practice AMS strategy
- Importance of starting antimicrobials without delay (e.g. in severe sepsis) and review of microbiology (usually 48 hours turn around)

# Common interventions

1. Intravenous to oral (IV-to-Oral) switch
2. De-escalation (cf. escalation)
3. Dose optimisation
4. Therapeutic drug monitoring
5. Microbiology interpretation
6. Duration advice

# Intravenous to oral

- Guidelines
- Dependent on fungal infection (ID consult)
  - e.g. amphotericin B formulation use in cryptococcosis
  - e.g. candidiasis (echinocandin to azole )
- Dependent on antifungal agent
  - Azoles vs. other agents
- Dependent on host co-morbidity (renal dysfunction)

# IV-ORAL SWITCH

## Western Sydney Local Health District Antimicrobial Stewardship Program IV TO ORAL SWITCH

Consider conversion from IV to ORAL antibiotics when ALL of the following apply:

1. Temperature  $<38^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 hours
2. Improving signs and symptoms
3. Oral/nasogastric intake tolerated
4. Suitable ORAL alternative available
5. Patient likely to be adherent with oral therapy
6. Patient has not been diagnosed with one of the conditions below:

### Conditions where IV to Oral switch may **NOT** be appropriate:

Bone and Joint Infections	Deep seated abscess
Cystic Fibrosis	Meningitis
Endocarditis	Bacteraemia

# Dose optimisation

- Certain indications for dose optimisation include
  - **Increase dose:**
    - Tissue penetration (e.g. meningitis, CNS, sanctuary sites )
    - Fungi with higher MICs (*N. glabratus*, *A. fumigatus*)
    - Augmented renal clearance (eGFR >130)
    - Sepsis/Septic shock, hypoalbuminemia
    - Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)
  - **Decrease dose:**
    - Renal impairment (eGFR<50)
  - **Depends on drug:**
    - Obesity, renal replacement therapy, drug interactions

# TDM

Active process of individualising a dose by maintaining plasma/blood concentration

- Iterative process:

**Give dose**

**Measuring a concentration of a drug**

**Adjust dose /continue dose**

**Sources of PK variability**

- Compliance
- Age —neonates, children, elderly
- Physiology- gender, pregnancy, albumin levels, renal impairment
- Drug-drug interactions, food interactions
- Genetic polymorphisms on metabolism

# Duration

This is the most commonly requested advice

The Google logo is displayed in its standard multi-colored font.

- Magic numbers based on convention vs. best evidence based medicine:
  - 6, 12 weeks? 6 months, 1 year, “don’t know”
- Can depend on clinical response but usually guided by Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic



# Evidence supporting AMS

- Benefits of effective AMS programs:
  - Reduced antimicrobial utilisation
  - Reduced acquisition costs of antimicrobials
  - Improved appropriateness of prescribing
  - Reduced adverse effects associated with antimicrobial use
  - Reduced Length Of Stay
- Balancing measures:
  - No increase in infection related mortality or morbidity

# Entirety of published evidence up to 2016



AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
MICROBIOLOGY

Antimicrobial Agents  
and Chemotherapy



CrossMark  
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## Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Clinical and Economic Outcomes from the Implementation of Hospital-Based Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs

Styliani Karanika,<sup>a</sup> Suresh Paudel,<sup>a</sup> Christos Grigoras,<sup>a</sup> Alireza Kalbasi,<sup>b</sup>  Eleftherios Mylonakis<sup>a</sup>

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- 25,000 publications, 26 studies were analysed
- Compared pre vs post AMS program (range 6 mo – 6 y)

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**Total antimicrobial utilisation reduced by 20% (95% CI 7.5-30%)**

**Antifungal utilisation reduced by 40% (95% CI 16-62%)**

**Reduced Length of Stay 15%**

**Reduced antimicrobial costs 35%**

# The AMS Team: fictional

- AMS Ward Rounds
  - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays @ 10:30am

## Team

- ID Doctors
- AMS Pharmacists (dedicated)
- Infection Prevention & Control Team
- Clinical Microbiologist, Mycology scientist

# What the AMS team does?

- Education
- Interpreting microbiology results
- TDM
- Advice, JMO support
  - De-escalation
  - Dose optimisation
  - IV to Oral Switch
  - Appropriate duration, cessation
  - Directed therapy/Broadening cover

Always happy  
to answer  
questions on  
the round!

There are no  
dumb  
questions

# AMS Philosophy

Patient safety & quality of care

- Education vs enforcement
- Improve antibiotic literacy
- Minimise additional work load
- Maximise efficiency of the system



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**THANK YOU!**

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# Factors influencing the outcome of antifungal therapy

Van t' Wout J. 1996



Immunological status  
Underlying disease  
Site of disease  
Prosthetic material

HOST

FUNGUS

resistance

efficacy

ANTIFUNGAL  
DRUG

Virulence  
Propensity to disseminate  
Species  
Drug resistance

Prompt aggressive therapy  
Compliance  
Drug pharmacokinetics  
- tissue penetration  
- drug inactivation



# Where can I learn more?



SANFORD GUIDE



Antimicrobial  
Therapy

