

## Antibiotic Streamlining – Sample Pharmacist’s Daily Routine

Step	Task	Notes
1	Review microbiology data	<p>The microbiology lab usually reads the cultures between 7 - 9am. The cultures that have turned positive and that can be identified, will usually be reported later that day. If the physicians make rounds in the morning, they may not see the results until twenty-four hours after the cultures have been identified.</p> <p>Arrange with your lab to pick up the culture and sensitivity results each morning after the cultures have been read, if necessary.</p>
2	Review Current Antibiotics	<p>Match the culture and sensitivity data received that morning with any antimicrobial therapy that the patient may be receiving.</p>
3	Communicate with the Prescriber	<p>Take into account the culture and sensitivity results, along with the current antimicrobial therapy and recommend an effective alternative to the physician.</p> <p>When communicating, try to be supportive, rather than challenging. It is important to remember that the physician may have specific patient information that you may not have access to within the pharmacy.</p> <p>Some physicians, especially infectious disease specialists, may not want any written communication in their charts, for fear that it may appear that their expertise is being questioned. In these instances, a phone call may be the best method of communication.</p> <p><b>Being consistent with your recommendations will help you build credibility with the physicians. One mistake could negate several months of work.</b></p>

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4	Document Your Activities	<p>Whether you communicate orally, or in writing, there are several good reasons to document your antibiotic streamlining activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Commission/Quality Improvement</li> <li>• Operational issues</li> <li>• Quality Improvement</li> <li>• Medical/Legal Liability</li> <li>• Clarification of Early Communication</li> </ul> <p>Consider utilizing a standard form to help minimize variations in your communications. The form should be clear, concise and non-threatening. The form should be in duplicate so a copy may be retained for your records. Please see the "Sample Physician Note" in the Introduction to Anti-Infective Streamlining Guide.</p> <p>You may want to consider placing the statement "Not a permanent part of the medical record. Please discard after your consideration." on the form.</p>
5	Follow-Up	<p>It is important to follow-up on all communications for the following reasons:</p> <p>To determine the kind of impact your recommendations are having on antibiotic prescribing routines.</p> <p>A physician may leave you a return note, or you may receive valuable feedback from the physician via the telephone.</p>