

Let's Work Together: Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Antibiotics are a shared resource
 - The use of antibiotics TODAY or in one patient directly impacts how effective they will be TOMORROW or in another patient.
- Antibiotic resistance is not just a problem for the person with the infection. Some resistant bacteria have the potential to spread to others –promoting antibiotic-resistant infections.
- Since it will be many years before new antibiotics are available to treat some resistant infections, we need to improve the use of antibiotics that are currently available.
- We all need to work together!



FIVE THINGS TO DO TODAY TO HELP

Promote antibiotic best practices– a first step in antibiotic stewardship:

1. Ensure all orders have dose, duration, and indications
2. Get cultures before starting antibiotics
3. Take an “antibiotic timeout,” reassessing antibiotics after 48-72 hours
4. Use the most narrow spectrum agent that will treat the infection
5. Treat actual bacterial infection, not colonization or viral illness