

Antimicrobial stewardship: 6a- Documentation of reason for prescribing antibiotics

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Indicator 6a-Documentation of reason for prescribing antibiotics
METEOR identifier:	612224
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Retired 25/01/2022• Health, Standard 12/09/2016
Description:	The proportion of prescriptions for which the reason for prescribing antibiotics is documented.
Rationale:	Documentation aims to improve communication between health professionals who are caring for a patient. It also ensures that antibiotic treatment is optimised (ACSQHC 2012; Duguid & Cruickshank 2011).
Indicator set:	Clinical care standard indicators: antimicrobial stewardship Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care , Retired 25/01/2022 Health , Standard 12/09/2016
Outcome area:	Documentation Health , Standard 12/09/2016

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	For the numerator, 'documented' means the indication or reason for prescribing each antibiotic is written in the patient's medical record. To be counted towards the numerator, the documented indication should also be clear, and specific enough for decision making and intervention if necessary. For example, indications such as 'infection' or even 'chest infection' are unlikely to assist in ensuring antimicrobial treatment is optimised, and thus should not be counted as meeting the requirement for the numerator. Presented as a percentage.
Computation:	$(\text{Numerator} \div \text{denominator}) \times 100$
Numerator:	Number of prescriptions for which the reason for prescribing antibiotics is documented.
Denominator:	Number of prescriptions for antibiotics.

Comments: This indicator is based on a modification of *Indicator 21: Reason for prescribing recorded*, as contained in *Indicators of quality prescribing in Australian general practice* (National Prescribing Service 2006).

There are a number of existing audit tools where samples of medication charts are assessed for appropriateness and compliance of antimicrobial prescribing against the *Therapeutic guidelines: antibiotic* (Antibiotic Expert Group 2014). These include:

- The National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS)—conducted by the Centre of Research Excellence—National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS), using a point prevalence survey.
- Audits of GP prescribing administered by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineWise. These include, but are not confined to, antimicrobial prescribing.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage
Data type: Real
Unit of measure: Service event
Format: N[NN]

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Reference documents: ACSQHC (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care) 2012. *Safety and Quality Improvement Guide, Standard 6: Clinical Handover*. Sydney: ACSQHC.

Antibiotic Expert Group 2014. *Therapeutic guidelines: antibiotic*. Version 15. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited.

Duguid M & Cruickshank M (eds) 2011. *Antimicrobial stewardship in Australian hospitals*. Sydney: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

National Prescribing Service 2006. *Indicators of quality prescribing in Australian general practice*. Sydney: NPS.