# Tips for Clinicians To Sustain Antibiotic Stewardship

This tip sheet is adapted from the CDC's Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Checklists as adapted for Outpatient Telemedicine,[1-2] augmented with information from the AHRQ Safety Program for Telemedicine. It provides strategies for clinicians to sustain appropriate antibiotic use in telemedicine.

## Implementing Best Practices

Display commitments such as the Antibiotic Stewardship Poster on your website or as your virtual background for telemedicine visits to demonstrate support of antibiotic stewardship to your patients and their families.

Implement best practices for treatment from the AHRQ Toolkit to Improve Antibiotic Use in Telemedicine.

## Learning and Improvement Activities

Review prescribing data provided by your practice/organization on a regular basis.

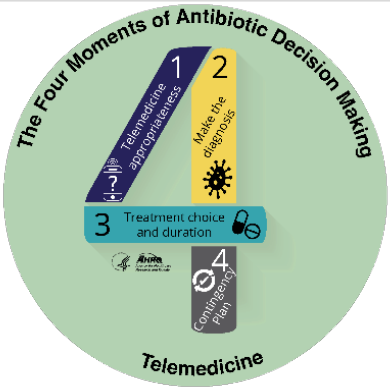
Stay updated on the latest evidence and best practices through continuing medical education and other learning opportunities, such as the CDC's free antibiotic stewardship courses.[3]

Participate in quality improvement activities, such as benchmarking and educational initiatives offered within your organization, to track and improve antibiotic prescribing.

## Communicating With Patients

Communicate effectively with patients about when antibiotics are and are not needed by utilizing program strategies such as the Dialogue Around Respiratory Illness Treatment (DART) Approach and patient portal response scripts and patient guides from the AHRQ Toolkit to Improve Antibiotic Use in Telemedicine.[4-5]

Educate patients about antibiotic risk factors with patient education materials from the AHRQ Toolkit to Improve Antibiotic Use in Telemedicine.




**Moment 1:** Is my patient an appropriate candidate for a telemedicine visit?

**Moment 2:** Does my patient have signs and symptoms indicating an infection that may require antibiotics? Is a diagnostic test needed?

**Moment 3:** If antibiotics are indicated, what is the narrowest, safest, and shortest regimen I can prescribe?

**Moment 4:** What symptomatic relief should I offer or prescribe to my patient? What should I tell my patient about the expected course and the followup plan?

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1. CDC. The Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Checklists. https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/media/pdfs/Core-Elements-Outpatient-Forms-checklists-508.pdf. Accessed October 10, 2024
2. Sanchez GV, Kabbani S, Tsay SV, et al. Antibiotic stewardship in outpatient telemedicine: adapting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention core elements to optimize antibiotic use. Telemed J E Health. 2024 Apr;30(4):951-962. PMID: 37856146.
3. CDC. Antibiotic Stewardship Trainings. April 22, 2024. https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/training/index.html. Accessed December 17, 2024.
4. Kronman MP, Gerber JS, Grundmeier RW, et al. Reducing antibiotic prescribing in primary care for respiratory illness. Pediatrics. 2020 Sep;146(3):e20200038. Epub 2020 Aug 3. PMID: 32747473.
5. Mangione-Smith R, Robinson JD, Zhou C, et al. Fidelity evaluation of the dialogue around respiratory illness treatment (DART) program communication training. Patient Educ Couns. 2022 Jul;105(7):2611-6. Epub 2022 Mar 14. PMID: 35341612.