



Canadian National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey: A Pilot Initiative

The Sinai Health System-University Health Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (SHS-UHN ASP), in collaboration with the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS), the Guidance Group, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), will undertake a pilot initiative in Canadian Hospitals to better understand how antimicrobials are prescribed in Canada.

Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious and growing global health threat. The loss of effective antimicrobials is reducing our ability to protect Canadians from infectious diseases, with profound impacts on our health care system, global trade, agriculture, environment and health sectors. One of the components of an effective AMR response is Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS). AMS is one of four components of the [Pan-Canadian Framework for Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use](#) (AMU). AMS includes coordinated interventions designed to promote, improve, monitor, and evaluate the judicious use of antimicrobials. In Canada, however, we have limited data on antimicrobial prescribing patterns, including indications for use and appropriateness. This information is critical for developing and implementing a range of actions to optimize the use of antimicrobials, both for an individual's health and to reduce the development of AMR at the population level.

Project Description

Beginning in late summer 2018, the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS) initiative will seek to recruit approximately 25 Canadian hospitals from provinces across the country. The pilot will use the Australian NAPS to help gain an understanding of how antimicrobials are prescribed in Canada. Beginning with acute care facilities, where the current infrastructure best lends itself to such a survey, this initiative will be a key catalyst to a national response to AMR, specifically as it relates to AMU. We hope successful implementation of this project will lead to opportunities for expansion to all hospitals and other health care settings (including long-term care, primary care, and veterinary medicine).

The main objectives of the Canadian NAPS Initiative are to:

1. Provide a tool to assist hospitals of any size and complexity to audit antimicrobial prescribing and facilitate local quality improvement initiatives
2. Provide a national estimate of antimicrobial prescribing behaviour, including:
 - prevalence of antimicrobial use
 - appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing
3. Assist in identifying targets for antimicrobial stewardship interventions

The National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS) tool was developed in Australia and has been used since 2011 to audit antimicrobial prescribing practices within Australian health care facilities. This survey tool provides a suite of web-based standardized data collection tools, allowing participating hospitals to audit antimicrobial prescribing within their facilities and to receive facility/ward-specific reports, in addition to national benchmarking data. Hospitals have 24/7 access to their own data, which they can export for further analysis.

For further information, or if interested in participating in this initiative, please contact Yoshiko Nakamachi (yoshiko.nakamachi@uhn.ca), Sinai Health System-University Health Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (SHS-UHN ASP).