

Transforming Nursing Home Care Together (TNT) Program

Week 2 (Unit 3) Questions and Answers

Question	Do you have the link to AHRQ's Antibiotic Stewardship Program (ASP) resource?
Answer	Click here to access the toolkit for ASP in Long Term Care: Links mentioned during the Didactic session can be found in the Didactic slides that are emailed to all participants prior to the Didactic session. The slides can also be found on the TNT Website within one week following each Didactic session.

Question	Is there a regulatory standard that supports the antibiotic stewardship program (ASP)?
Answer	California requires by law that nursing homes have an antibiotic stewardship program. Additionally, federal regulations require SNFs licensed/certified by CMS to implement an antibiotic stewardship program (ASP). This has been effective since November 28, 2017 and are found under §483.80(a)(3) Infection Control: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2021-title42-vol5/pdf/CFR-2021-title42-vol5-sec483-80.pdf . More details can found in CMS QSO 20-03-NH: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-03-nh.pdf .

Question	If antibiotic resistance was a result of not completing the course antibiotic, why do we need an antibiotic time out?
Answer	Stopping antibiotics early and not completing a treatment course does not result in antibiotic resistance. A review in the British Medical Journal in 2017 found no evidence to support the claim that patients who stop antibiotics before the full treatment course is completed results in increased bacterial resistance. In fact, all evidence suggests that stopping antibiotics when they're no longer needed actually prevents resistance. The Antibiotic "time-out" is a good way to make sure the provider promptly considers discontinuing any unnecessary antibiotics, including and if appropriate, stopping antibiotics completely before a full treatment course is completed if antibiotic treatment is not indicated.

Question	Can a "time out" possibly lead to discontinuing antibiotic?
Answer	Yes. Acute illnesses can share similar symptoms. Determining the patient's true diagnosis and final treatment plan may take a few days to figure out. Sometimes antibiotics are appropriate to continue after confirming an infection. However, other times, additional information (e.g., culture results, test results, clinical progress, etc.) show that infection is less likely and another non-infectious etiology is more likely; in this case, antibiotics would no longer be appropriate and should be discontinued. A "time-out" can help ensure unnecessary antibiotic treatment is promptly reconsidered by the provider.

Question	A resident was admitted to our SNF on an antibiotic and their treating doctor changed their antibiotic regimen twice after arrival. Is their infection considered a community acquired infection (CAI) or a healthcare-associated infection (HAI)?
Answer	Determining whether an infection is CAI or HAI depends on where the patient was residing when the infection began. The start date of antibiotics does not determine CAI vs HAI designation. Here are two types of scenarios when a patient's antibiotics are changed after admission, but the CAI vs HAI designation does not change: 1) a patient whose antibiotics are switched due to various reasons ranging from side effects, drug-drug interactions, or new route of administration; and 2) the infection isn't resolving or is worsening leading to a re-culture and placement on a different antibiotic. In the second scenario, the infection should still be considered CAI since the patient did not develop a new infection after admission but was on the wrong antibiotic requiring a change to a more appropriate antibiotic. Here is a scenario showing when a patient may have a change in antibiotics due to development of an HAI: a patient is admitted to a SNF with a CAI (e.g., cellulitis) and then develops a

	second infection (e.g. UTI or pneumonia) after admission requiring a change in antibiotics that will treat both infections. In this case, two infections are being treated where one is CAI (cellulitis) and the other is HAI (UTI or pneumonia).
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Question	Which is better Loeb or McGeer?
Answer	Loeb criteria are meant to be a minimum set of signs and symptoms which, when met, indicate that the resident likely has an infection and that an antibiotic might be indicated, even if the infection has not been confirmed by diagnostic testing. McGeer criteria is used for retrospectively counting true infections.

Question	Are McGeer criteria ever updated?
Answer	The McGeer criteria are periodically updated, the last being 2012. That is the current version.

Question	Can we have a link to the new McGeer criteria?
Answer	Link to McGeer criteria can be found on the TNT Website under Resources: Website Resources section. Click here for the direct link to the McGeer criteria.

Question	Will Los Angeles County follow CDPH soon regarding 6ft physical distancing during communal dining? Our residents are eager to participate in activities without sitting 6 feet apart.
Answer	Our guidance already aligns with CDPH and CDC regarding physical distancing requirements, or lack thereof, related to communal dining and group activities. Please always first refer back to Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health's (LAC DPH) Guidelines for Preventing & Managing COVID-19 in SNFs : "There is no recommendation to physically distance or avoid physical contact (e.g., hugs, holding hands) between a resident and their visitor(s), regardless of vaccination status. However, physical distancing should be maintained between other resident-visitor groups both indoors and outdoors." - Table 2. Infection Prevention & Control Requirements for Visitation

Question	Is there a limit on number of visitors in a patient room?
Answer	No, the only limit is based on the size of the room and the number of people that can comfortably fit in it while ensuring there is distancing between them and any other roommates or visitors of another resident in the room.

Question	If staff ask whether they can use their own surgical mask because of the style they prefer, can facilities allow that or should they only use the surgical mask provided by the facility?
Answer	It is up to the individual facility to decide if they want to allow staff to bring their own masks, but the easiest way to ensure that staff are wearing well-fitting medical-grade surgical/procedural masks with good filtration is to provide them for staff for the following reasons: #1: Staff do not have to spend their own money to buy masks. #2: The facility can ensure the staff is wearing masks that are up to the standards of a surgical or medical procedure mask and provide adequate levels of protection.

Question	How can I determine whether I should report a resident being admitted with a communicable disease?
Answer	To make that determination, please save and refer to the LACDPH Reportable Diseases and Conditions document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For direct link to the document, click here. The document can also be found on the TNT Website under the Website Resources section.

TNT Program Logistics:

Question	Why does the quiz link shared in the Webex chat not open?
Answer	When you click on the quiz link from the Webex chat, it leads to a message that you are being directed to an external site. You must click on the "Continue" button to be directed to the quiz page.

Question	What are we submitting for the final EVS project?
Answer	<p>For your EVS project, you must submit a filled out A3. Submission must be emailed to TNEducation@ph.lacounty.gov by 5pm on Monday, 02/27/23.</p> <p>While the project may not be completed by February 27th, you must fill out all components of your A3. Please include your Plan, what you expect to Do, what you expect to see (Check), and how you will continue your project (Act).</p> <p>A blank A3 form can be found on the TNT Website in the Resources section.</p>

Question	Do we have a makeup session for missed Small Group in January?
Answer	Yes, we will have 2 makeup Small Group sessions in January. Facilities that did not attend the January Small Group they were scheduled for, will receive an invitation to one of the two makeup sessions. The makeup session invitations will be sent only with a few days notice.

Question	If I did not take the post-session evaluation quiz last week, how can I make that up?
Answer	<p>All quiz links are available on the TNT Website within one week after each Didactic session.</p> <p>Unit 3 Didactic session quizzes will remain open until one week following the end of Unit 3. All quizzes will close at 5pm on March 15, 2023, after which time no other submissions will be accepted.</p> <p>If you did not complete a quiz for the session you attended, or watched the recording of, please access the link from the TNT Website and complete the quiz before they close.</p>