

ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

DENTAL UPDATE

November 2020

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week is November 18-25, 2020. This is an annual observance that highlights the steps *everyone* can take to improve antibiotic prescribing and use.

Antibiotics are useful for bacterial infections, and are critical tools for treating more serious infections, such as those that can lead to sepsis and death. Scarce antibiotic choices for multidrug-resistant organisms are an urgent worldwide public health problem, and unnecessary antibiotic prescribing is responsible for driving the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Wisconsin policy makers, oral and medical health care team members, and the public are not immune to the paramount concern for antibiotic safety, quality, and care. In 2019, the [CDC](#) found that more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur annually in the United States, resulting in the deaths of more than 35,000 Americans. This emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the associated adverse consequences continue to occur in Wisconsin as well.

In the spirit of U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week, this correspondence announces the formation of a **Wisconsin Oral Health Antibiotic Stewardship Program** to help address antibiotic use in dental settings statewide.

Purpose

This collaboration will be led by Dr. Barry Fox, the Antibiotic Stewardship Director within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Public Health, which receives activity support from the CDC. The purpose of the Wisconsin Oral Health Antibiotic Stewardship Program (WOHASP) is to offer education and guidance to increase awareness of evidence-based antibiotic prescribing and use.

Education and Awareness

Improving antibiotic prescribing and use is critical to effectively treating current and future bacterial infections while protecting patients from antibiotic harm. Education and awareness for all stakeholders is essential to stem antibiotic misuse harms and the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Communication

Periodically, we will provide peer-reviewed articles and national organization consensus opinions to support the development, implementation, and integration of evidence-based antibiotic guidance.

In addition to resources disseminated to partners, the following resources are available for dental providers on the CDC website:

- [Checklist for Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry](#)
- [Antibiotic Safety: Dos and Don'ts at the Dentist](#) (patient education poster/flyer)
- [Do You Need Antibiotics from your Dentist?](#) (patient education brochure)

Antibiotic Stewardship Program Contact Information

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Wisconsin Oral Health Antibiotic Stewardship Program Members

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- Greg Theis, DDS, MBA, Director – Dental Services, Delta Dental of Wisconsin
- Jesley Ruff, DDS, MPH, ForwardDental
- Scott Murphy, DMD, Service Line Director Marshfield Dental Clinic
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Antibiotic Stewardship Guidance Limitations: *The Wisconsin Antibiotic Stewardship Program provides materials and guidance with the understanding and recognition that information on antibiotic use is continuously evolving. Consensus statements, peer-reviewed articles, and evidence-based guidelines also have limitations. Prior to the implementation of a guideline, stakeholders, oral health providers, and health care organizations should conduct a review per their policies, procedures, and quality assurance functions to ensure guidelines comply with local, regional, and national requirements for patient care, safety, and quality.*