

# KASIC NEWSLETTER

Issue Three, Volume One

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*Pictured Top: St. Joseph Hospital*

*Pictured Below: Dr. Marintha R. Short*



## ASP SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Marintha R. Short, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology

**Title:** Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

**Training:** Critical Care Pharmacy Residency, University of Kentucky HealthCare - Lexington, KY

Pharmacy Practice Residency, University of North Carolina HealthCare - Chapel Hill, NC

SIDP Pharmacist Antimicrobial Stewardship Certificate Program

**Facility:** Saint Joseph Health – Continuing Care Hospital (a Long-Term Acute Care Facility)

### What are Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals?

Long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs) are facilities that specialize in the treatment of patients with serious medical conditions that require care on an ongoing basis. These patients are typically discharged from the intensive care units and require more care than they can receive in a rehabilitation center, skilled nursing facility, or at home. LTACHs often are housed within the walls of an acute care hospital but function independently. LTACHs must be licensed independently and have their own governing body. Under Medicare, the patient must need more than 25 days of hospitalization. Patient types include: Prolonged ventilator use or weaning e.g. CHF exacerbations, Long-COVID, post CVA recovery; Multiple IV antibiotics e.g. Osteomyelitis, Endocarditis or MDR Pathogens; Complex wound care – e.g. Diabetic Foot infections.

### What got you interested in antimicrobial stewardship?

I started my position at the “Continuing Care Hospital (CCH)” in August 2019. As part of the position, and the nature of the patients at Long Term Acute Care Hospitals, I automatically became the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Chair. Having a Critical Care and Cardiology background, this was a big undertaking for me. Luckily, CCH is part of the Saint Joseph Hospital System which has a strong AMS program with lots of initiatives already in place.



### What has been one of your biggest success in antimicrobial stewardship?

Our hospital has created an immense positive collaboration with the Lexington Infectious Disease Consultants, Infection Control, Laboratory, Quality, Nursing, Environmental services, and Pharmacy to navigate the complex antimicrobial issues we have from all fronts.

### What has been one of your biggest barriers? How did you overcome?

My biggest barrier is that nearly all of my patients inherently have complex multidrug resistant pathogens in which therapy often cannot be guided by guidelines or by antibiograms. My advice to anyone in the same situation is to not to work in a silo. It requires patient case discussions with other pharmacists and physicians to get an understanding of the possible resistance mechanisms that may be in place to optimize therapy – which is where the KASIC network can assist! To learn what a LTACH is, see the grey section to the left.

### What are you most excited about working with KASIC?

KASIC can provide a network of people ready and willing to assist in tackling the growing global health threats as well as Antimicrobial Stewardship Joint Commission requirements. KASIC members can work together to petition the Kentucky Hospital Association and the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy to help us obtain needed support when identified.

# Looking for help to meet CMS Requirements for Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in the Long-Term Care Setting?

[Federal regulations](#) now require long-term care facilities to implement an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) that includes: antibiotic use protocols, systems to monitor antibiotic use, education for prescribing practitioners, residents and nursing staff; and on-going annual review.

Available ASP resources includes the [CDC Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship in Nursing homes](#) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) [Nursing Home Antimicrobial Stewardship Guide](#). The CDC Core Elements provide a framework for an effective ASP and includes a checklist to help identify opportunities. Furthermore, the AHRQ guide provides 10 toolkits that can aid in implementation of various interventions and projects. For example, the “Communicating and Decision-making for Four Infections” toolkit helps bedside nurses effectively communicate to providers on urinary tract infections, lower respiratory infections, skin and soft tissue infections, and gastrointestinal infections in order to aid in optimal decision making on antibiotic use.

KASIC understands the distinct challenges presented in the long-term care setting, including the unique patient population, and extreme staffing shortages, and seeks to provide tools, resources, and mentorship, at **no cost**, to our long-term care network partners.

Interested in KASIC to help with your ASP in LTC? Send us a [message](#) today!

## LTC Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Engagement Opportunity



Engage your consultant pharmacists in antimicrobial stewardship! The following scenario has been adapted from the CDC and is designed for the long-term care setting. Have questions and not sure where to start? Send KASIC [message](#) today!

### Name:

Limiting Prolonged Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Urinary Tract Infections

### Opportunity:

Identify residents who are receiving antibiotics, e.g. nitrofurantoin (Macrobid) for UTI prevention. Once identified, discuss the indication, rationale, and planned duration with the provider to ensure that benefits outweigh the risks and recommend discontinuation if they do not.

### Why is this important?

Antibiotic use carries the risk of harm to residents, including selection for resistant pathogenic organisms, adverse drug events, and *C. difficile* infections. The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) suggests against using long-term antibiotic prophylaxis in a consensus statement.<sup>1</sup>

1. Ashraf MS, et al. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2020 Jan;21(1):12-24.

## Why is Stewardship So Important?

The World Health Organization has identified antimicrobial resistance as one of top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. The ability to effectively treat infections has advanced all of healthcare from routine surgical procedures to cancer chemotherapy and solid organ transplantation. Antibiotics cure infections and preserve the benefit of treatments that place people at higher risk for infections. With increasing antimicrobial resistance, those benefits may be lost. **Antimicrobial stewardship** aims to optimize antimicrobial use so as to reduce the risk for antimicrobial resistance and improve patient outcomes. With a dwindling antimicrobial pipeline compared to the past, the need for antimicrobial stewardship grows larger every day.

## KHA sponsorship for SIDP Certificate Program

Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) is sponsoring a new class enrollment for up to 30 pharmacists to obtain the SIDP Antimicrobial Stewardship Certificate Program for Acute Care. KHA membership includes most acute care, critical access, and LTAC facilities in Kentucky. Jessica Covington, quality program pharmacist at KHA, will issue a statewide email with more details regarding the sponsorship in early January. Please email Jessica Covington at [jcovington@kyha.com](mailto:jcovington@kyha.com) for information regarding facility membership and sponsorship questions.

## Office Hours

Looking to chat with an expert? Office hours may be right for you!

Office hours are hosted virtually every Thursday afternoon from 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST and are open to anyone interested in antimicrobial stewardship

[Link to Join Office Hours](#)

## Not a member yet?

JOIN TODAY

IT'S FREE!

