

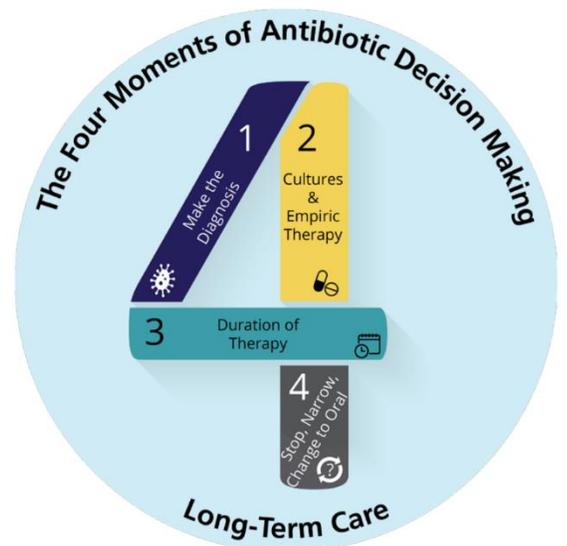


Long-Term Care Antimicrobial Stewardship: Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making

Antibiotics are one of the most common prescribed medications in long-term care with up to 70% residents receiving one or more courses of systemic antibiotics in a year.¹ Are these antibiotics needed? Studies have shown that **40-75%** of antibiotics prescribed in long-term cares may be **unnecessary or inappropriate**.¹ Antibiotics can save lives, but can also cause harm if overused. Frail and older adults are especially susceptible to adverse events such as *Clostridioides difficile* diarrhea, increased adverse drug events and drug interactions, and colonization and/or infection with antibiotic-resistant organisms.¹ The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Safety Program has developed an easy-to-remember, structured approach to improve antibiotic prescribing in long-term care setting.² Learn more below.

Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making in Long-Term Care:²

- **Moment #1: Make the Diagnosis**
 - Does the resident have signs and symptoms suggesting an infection?
 - Are there alternate, non-infectious causes to explain the change in the resident's status?
- **Moment #2: Cultures & Empiric Therapy**
 - What type of infection does the resident have?
 - Have appropriate cultures been collected **before** starting antibiotics?
 - What empiric therapy should be initiated?
- **Moment #3: Duration of Therapy**
 - What duration of therapy antibiotic is needed for the resident's diagnosis?
 - Has a planned duration been documented on the antibiotic order?
 - Is the planned duration consistent with guidelines?
- **Moment #4: Stop, Narrow, Change to Oral**
 - A few days have passed since initiating antibiotics prompts re-assessment
 - Does new information suggest that change in resident is not due to infection? If so, can we stop antibiotics?
 - If infection concern persists, can we narrow? Can we change to oral antibiotics?



Key Takeaway: The 4 moments of antibiotic decision making is a structured, organized approach that can be implemented in long-term care setting to optimize antibiotic use. Free resources on the 4 moments of antibiotic decision making in long term care can be found at www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care.

References:

1. CDC. The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2015. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/index.html>
2. Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making. Content last reviewed August 2021. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care/four-moments/index.html>