

KASIC NEWSLETTER

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Broader Is Not Always Better

The 2019 IDSA community acquired pneumonia (CAP) [guideline](#) recommends beta-lactam (ampicillin-sulbactam or ceftriaxone) and macrolides/doxycycline or respiratory fluoroquinolone as the empiric regimen for patients without risk factors for resistant organisms. However, practitioners often default to broad-spectrum antibiotics (anti-pseudomonal and/or anti-MRSA therapy) due to concerns for multi-drug-resistant infection despite limited convincing evidence guiding this practice.

A recent [target trial emulation study](#) evaluated 2706 moderately immunocompromised patients hospitalized with CAP to determine whether empiric broad spectrum antibiotics improve outcomes. The study found that proven MRSA and resistant gram-negative CAP were uncommon (3.5%). **The use of empiric broad spectrum antibiotics did not improve mortality but was associated with readmission, transfer to ICU, and longer hospitalization.** Even though results should be interpreted with caution due retrospective study design, the findings argue against the routine use of broad-spectrum antibiotics in moderately immunocompromised patients with CAP.

[Click here to read the study!](#)

One and Done for Early Syphilis

The CDC [guidelines](#) recommend a single dose of 2.4 million units intramuscular penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin LA) for the treatment of early syphilis in all adults. However, there has been controversy whether a single dose is adequate, particularly for patients with HIV, leading some clinicians to treat with multiple doses.

A new [randomized, controlled trial](#) compared a single dose versus three dose (one dose weekly for three weeks) regimen in patients with early syphilis with or without HIV. A total of 249 patients were enrolled and 61% had HIV. A single dose was found to be noninferior to a three dose regimen for the primary end point of serologic response at 6 months.

These results confirm the validity of current recommendations and should provide confidence for clinicians to use a single dose of Bicillin for treatment of early syphilis. **These findings will help simplify treatment for syphilis patients, support antimicrobial stewardship, and ease the burden of recent Bicillin LA shortages.**

[Click here to read the study!](#)



KASIC Cases

Each week, a fictional case describing a common antimicrobial stewardship opportunity is posted on X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. Participants are encouraged to answer the poll first and then review the best answer along with an explanation.

Ready to test your antimicrobial stewardship knowledge?

Try out the latest case:

An ICU patient is on day 3 of empiric antibiotics for pneumonia. The patient is improving and cultures are negative.

Which of the following is a benefit from antimicrobial de-escalation?

- A. Lower AKI risk
- B. Higher mortality
- C. Cost increases

[Click here for the BEST answer](#)

[Read more cases here](#)

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Infectious Diseases Organization Partnerships

Starting in 2026, the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP) will be partnering with MAD-ID (Making a Difference in Infectious Diseases) to coordinate stewardship initiatives, training programs, and national meetings. This will provide members with streamlined resources and a broader platform for networking and collaboration. Of note, the 2025 SIDP annual meeting will still be held alongside ID Week 2025 this October in Atlanta and registration is open.

Latest Clinical Education Pearls: Click to Read!

[*Bactericidal vs Bacteriostatic: Does it Matter?*](#)

[*Defining De-Escalation*](#)

[*Coagulase-Negative Staphylococcus: Foe for How Long?*](#)

[*Long-Term Care Antimicrobial Stewardship: Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making*](#)

[*Even Shorter, Even Better: 3 Days for Community-Acquired*](#)

Norton Infectious Diseases Institute Grand Rounds Educational Series

[*Criss-Crossed by Cross-Reactivity: Clearing up Confusion in Beta Lactam Allergies*](#)

[*Infection Prevention and Control Through the Ages*](#)

[*Pertussis: Historic Disease, A Persistent Threat*](#)

[Click here for Grand Rounds Information](#)