Skin and Soft Tissue Infections: Discussion Guidee

During a regularly scheduled staff meeting, the antibiotic stewardship team leader(s) is encouraged to ask all clinical staff which components of the AHRQ Toolkit To Improve Antibiotic Use in Ambulatory Care related to skin and soft tissue infections have been reviewed. It is recommended that all clinical staff review at least one of the following: the audio presentation, the slide set with accompanying facilitator guide, or the clinician one-page document. Remind staff that even if they have not had a chance to review the material, that they should still do so. Also, remind staff how they can access the AHRQ Toolkit To Improve Antibiotic Use in Ambulatory Care content.

During the same meeting the stewardship leader(s) should generate conversation among staff members to determine how the practice can collectively improve the diagnosis and management of skin and soft tissue infections in their patients. Consider taking minutes and distributing them after the meeting to remind everyone present (and those not present) what was decided. Finally, it is also recommended to discuss progress on implementation of previous stewardship activities that the group is engaging in.

Suggested discussion topics include the following:

1. What antibiotics and antibiotic dosages should the practice recommend for treatment of nonpurulent and purulent cellulitis and for what duration?

 2. What recommendations will the practice make about non-antibiotic therapies for cellulitis?

 3. Who should healthcare providers refer patients to for incision and drainage of skin abscesses if they are not able to do it in clinic?

 4. Under what circumstances will the practice send abscess pus for culture and susceptibilities?

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