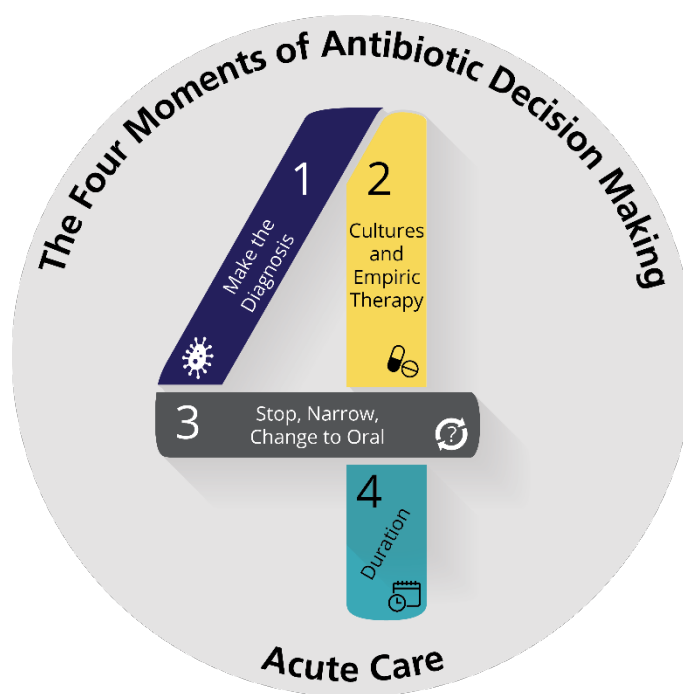


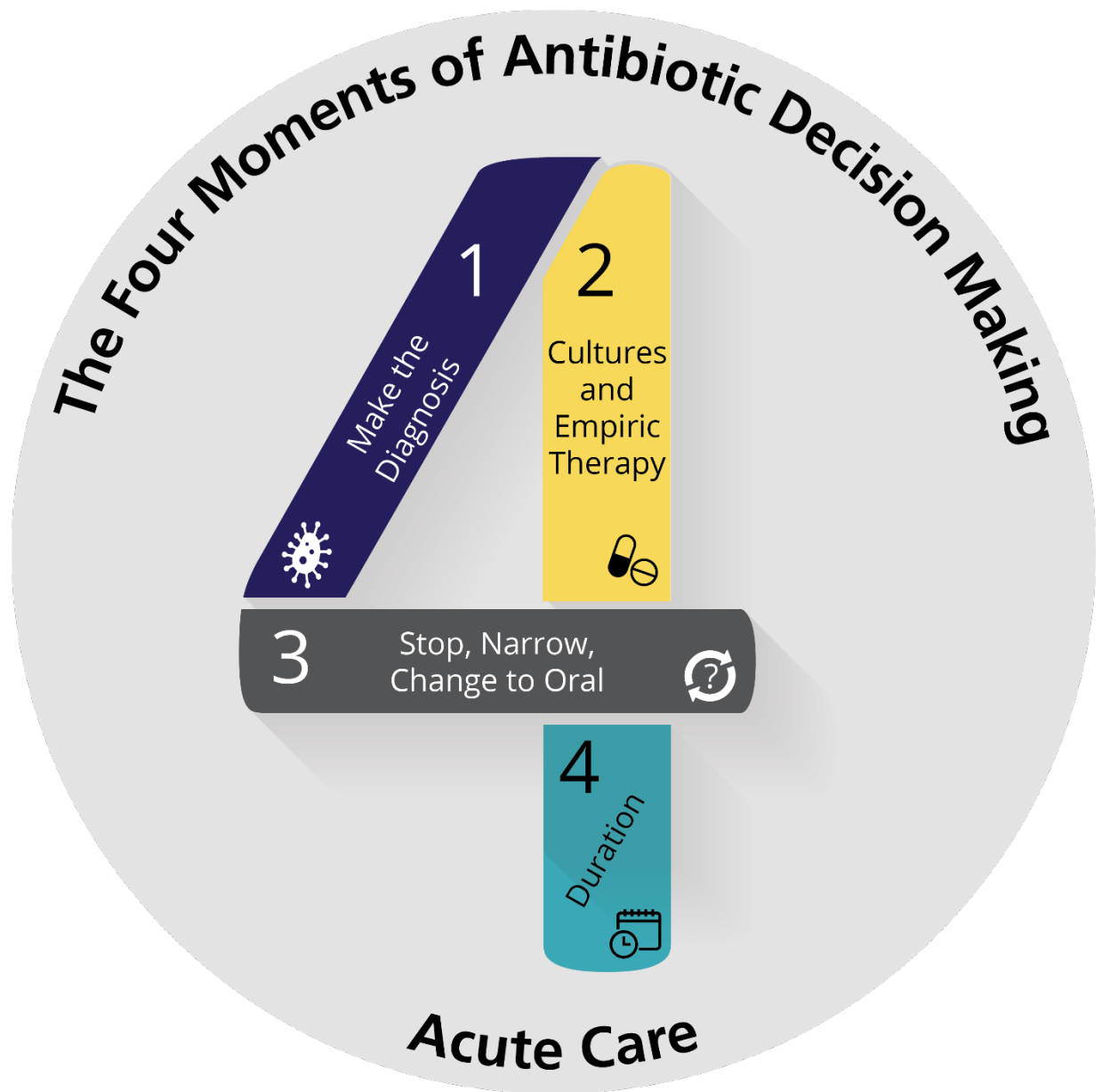
Moment 1 occurs at the time that initiation of antibiotic therapy is being considered. Ask, “Does my patient have an infection that requires antibiotics?”

Moment 2 occurs at the time that the decision has been made to start antibiotics. Ask, “Have I ordered appropriate cultures before starting antibiotics? What empiric therapy should I initiate?”

Moment 3 occurs on every subsequent day of antibiotic therapy. Ask three questions, “Can I stop antibiotics? Can I narrow therapy? Can I change from intravenous to oral therapy?”

Moment 4 should occur as soon as it is clear what infectious process is being treated and the patient is demonstrating a response to therapy. Ask, “What duration of antibiotic therapy is needed for my patient’s diagnosis?”





Explanation of Moments

These are the Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making. This framework is applied throughout the AHRQ Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use to ensure we are optimizing antibiotic prescribing with a structured approach, particularly when we discuss best practices in the diagnosis and treatment of specific infectious syndromes.

Moment 1 occurs at the time that initiation of antibiotic therapy is being considered. The prescriber should ask, “Does my patient have an infection that requires antibiotics?” Some patients may have a very low risk of having an infectious cause of their symptoms and others may not need antibiotics immediately.

Moment 2 occurs at the time that the decision has been made to start antibiotics. The prescriber should ask, “Have I ordered appropriate cultures before starting antibiotics? What empiric therapy should I initiate?”

Empiric therapy should be based on what organisms are likely to cause the suspected infectious process, the severity of illness, and characteristics of the host. Ideally, guidelines for empiric therapy for different infectious processes will have been developed by the antibiotic stewardship team in collaboration with prescribers.

Moment 3 occurs on every subsequent day of antibiotic therapy. The prescriber should ask, “Can I stop antibiotics? Can I narrow therapy or change from intravenous to oral therapy?”

Moment 4 should occur as soon as it is clear what infectious process is being treated and the patient is demonstrating a response to therapy. The prescriber should ask, “What duration of antibiotic therapy is needed for my patient’s diagnosis?”