

Comprehensive Antibigram Toolkit: Phase 3 Sample Policy

[NAME OF NURSING HOME]

RE: Antibigram Program

[DATE]

Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals in long-term care settings, yet reports indicate that a high proportion of antibiotic prescriptions are inappropriate. The adverse consequences of inappropriate prescribing practices—including drug reactions/interactions, secondary complications, and the emergence of multidrug-resistant organisms—have become more common. Inappropriate prescribing practices by primary care clinicians and overuse of newer, broad-spectrum antibiotics when either no antibiotic or an older narrow-spectrum drug would suffice are believed to be the primary contributors to this problem. As a result of the above complexities, nursing homes increasingly are recognized as reservoirs of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Antibiograms aggregate information for an entire institution over a period of several months or a year. They display the organisms present in clinical specimens sent for laboratory testing and the susceptibility of each organism to an array of antibiotics. Use of antibiograms helps reduce reliance on broad-spectrum antibiotics as initial therapy and leads to fewer clinical failures of antibiotics that are first prescribed.

To improve appropriate antibiotic use for the residents at [NAME OF NURSING HOME], the antibiogram program will be implemented on [DATE]. A facility-specific antibiogram will be made available to all prescribing clinicians on [DATE], prior to implementation.

[NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER]

[DATE]

