



Antimicrobial Resistance in Asymptomatic Bacteriuria of the Elderly

Abstract

The Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey repeatedly demonstrates that the prevention and treatment urinary tract infection (UTI) is the commonest reason for antimicrobial use in residential aged care facilities (RACFs). This usage is often inappropriate and an important driver of the elevated rates of resistance observed in the aged care setting. Much of this inappropriate use stems from a lack of understanding about the frequent and usually benign nature of asymptomatic bacteriuria in the elderly. At least two myths needs be dispelled: (i) the finding of bacteria in urine requires treatment/prophylaxis, and (ii) episodes of confusion are usually due to acute UTI. The aim of this project is to pilot interventions in inappropriate prescribing for presumed UTI in aged care.

The components of the project are (1) identify potential interventions from the published literature and international guidelines (e.g. those of the Infectious Diseases Society of America), (2) identify RACF facilities and staff willing to take part in prospective studies of antimicrobials, (3) develop and pilot an educational toolkit for RACF staff and residents' relatives, (4) explore the merits of more direct interventions (such as withholding prophylaxis in carefully selected patients) and (5) monitor antimicrobial use at an intervention and a control facility prior to and after the rollout of educational and any other interventions.

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