

## Improving Antibiotic Stewardship in a Primary Care Setting

The purpose of the study was to increase the frequency that antibiotics were used correctly for bacterial respiratory infections. While sometimes given for viruses, antibiotics should be given primarily for bacterial infections. Antibiotics can cause undesirable side effects and contribute to antimicrobial resistance. According to the CDC, antibiotic stewardship is a fundamental approach to combatting antimicrobial resistance. This project encouraged our medical providers and patients to have open conversations about the proper use of antibiotics. This effort is important to our clinic so we can provide the most effective care possible for our patients.

Our goal was that 90% of charts reviewed had appropriate non-antibiotic treatments offered for upper respiratory infections and acute bronchitis by July 1, 2024. Initially, just 86.5% of patients received the appropriate treatment for upper respiratory conditions. Medical providers were given education opportunities to learn about appropriate antibiotic use. Posters about proper antibiotic use were in each exam room, serving as conversation starters for providers and patients.

The post-corrective action data showed that on average, between April 1 to June 30, 2024, 97.5% of patients received the appropriate treatment, exceeding our goal of 90%.

