



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Study Identifies Successful Approaches to Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in U.S. Hospitals**

*Study Appears in February 2018 issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois, January 25, 2018) – Misuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance, accounting for more than two million infections and 23,000 deaths annually in the United States.<sup>1</sup> To combat the threat of resistance to antibiotics, The Joint Commission has developed [requirements](#) for hospitals to have antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs).

As implementing ASPs remains a challenge for many hospitals, a new study in the February 2018 issue of [The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety](#) identifies common characteristics and innovative strategies among ASPs leading the way. In the article, [“The Expanding Role of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Hospitals in the United States: Lessons Learned from a Multisite Qualitative Study,”](#) Shashi N. Kapadia, MD, instructor in medicine and in healthcare policy and research, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York City, and co-authors, report on findings from the interviews they conducted with 12 program leaders at four prominent ASPs in the United States.

The interview questions focused on ASP implementation, program structure, strengths and weaknesses, lessons learned and future directions. The authors identified three major themes that emerged from the data for successful approaches to ASPs:

- Evolution from a top-down structure to a more diffuse approach involving unit-based pharmacists, multidisciplinary staff and shared responsibility for antimicrobial prescribing under the ASPs’ leadership.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013. Atlanta: CDC, 2013. Accessed Jan 10, 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>.

- Integration of information technology systems to enable real-time interventions to optimize antimicrobial therapy and patient management.
- Barriers to technology integration including limited resources for data analysis and poor interoperability between software systems.

In an accompanying editorial, "[Antibiotic Stewardship Grows Up](#)," Arjun Srinivasan, MD, associate director for Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Programs, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states that the article by Kapadia et al. provides useful insights on how hospitals can implement their ASPs most efficiently and effectively.

The [article](#) and [editorial](#) are available online free to the public, along with an [invitation](#) from the *Journal's* Editor-in-Chief David W. Baker, MD, MPH, for papers on innovative approaches to antimicrobial stewardship in hospitals, nursing care centers and other settings.

Other articles in the February 2018 issue include the following:

- "[Temporal Trends in Fall Rates with the Implementation of a Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program: Persistence Pays Off](#)" (University of California, Los Angeles)
- "[Surveying Care Teams after In-Hospital Deaths to Identify Preventable Harm and Opportunities to Improve Advance Care Planning](#)" (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston)
- "[A Novel Bedside-Focused Ward Surveillance and Response System](#)" (Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia, California)
- "[An Initiative to Change Inpatient Practice: Leveraging the Patient Medical Home for Post-Discharge Follow-Up](#)" (VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California)
- "[Who's Covering This Patient? Developing a First-Contact Provider \(FCP\) Designation in an Electronic Health Record](#)" (University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago)

For more information, visit [The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety website](#).

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#### Note for editors

The article is "The Expanding Role of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Hospitals in the United States: Lessons Learned from a Multisite Qualitative Study," by Shashi N. Kapadia, MD, MS; Erika L. Abramson, MD, MS; Eileen J. Carter, RN, PhD; Angela S. Loo, PharmD; Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH; David P. Calfee, MD, MS; and Matthew S. Simon, MD, MS. The article appears in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, volume 44, number 2 (February 2018), published by Elsevier. Funding for the study was provided by Gary Barnett.

The editorial is "Antibiotic Stewardship Grows Up" by Arjun Srinivasan, MD. The article appears in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, volume 44, number 2 (February 2018), published by Elsevier.

***The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety***

[The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety](#) (JQPS) is a peer-reviewed journal providing health care professionals with innovative thinking, strategies and practices in improving quality and safety in health care. JQPS is the official journal of [The Joint Commission](#) and [Joint Commission Resources, Inc.](#) Original case studies, program or project reports, reports of new methodologies or the new application of methodologies, research studies, and commentaries on issues and practices are all considered.