



Antibiotic Time-Out Checklist

Use this checklist to take a Time-Out to reassess every antibiotic within 48-72 hours after antibiotic start. Refer to practice guidelines and/or facility-specific treatment recommendations, when appropriate.

Resident name or ID _____ Date of review _____

Prescriber (MD, DO, NP, PA) participating in Time-Out _____

Checklist completed by _____

Antibiotic name _____ Start date _____ Stop date _____

Antibiotic indication, dose, route _____

Yes	No	Antibiotic Time-Out	Comments
		Based on review of the clinical assessment, laboratory test results (including culture and sensitivity testing, if available), and/or other diagnostic test results, does this resident have a bacterial infection that will respond to antibiotics?	
		If so, is the resident on the most appropriate antibiotic(s)? Can the spectrum of the antibiotic be narrowed (de-escalation)?	
		Is the antibiotic being given in the correct dose?	
		Is the antibiotic being given by the most appropriate route (example: IV vs PO)?	
		How long will the antibiotic be needed? Can the duration of therapy be shortened?	
		Is the necessary documentation present to support the clinical team's assessment and decisions?	

See reverse for instructions



Antibiotic Time-Out Instructions

- IDENTIFY RESIDENTS.** Antibiotic stewardship champion will identify residents who have taken a new antibiotic for 48-72 hours.
- GATHER INFORMATION.** Antibiotic stewardship champion (or designee) will complete an **Antibiotic Time-Out SBAR.**
- CONDUCT THE ANTIBIOTIC TIME-OUT.** Complete the Antibiotic Time-Out Checklist (*see reverse*) with the prescribing clinician and ensure appropriate documentation.

SAMPLE ANTIBIOTIC TIME-OUT SBAR

Situation

“Resident on antibiotic therapy for 48-72 hours; new clinical assessment, laboratory test results (including culture and sensitivity testing, if available), and/or other diagnostic test results available for review”

Background

Include details about:

- The initial order and reason for antibiotic
- The drug, dose, duration and route
- Any known drug allergies
- Vital signs
- Clinical assessment
- Culture and sensitivity laboratory results
- Other diagnostic test results

Assessment

Include details about:

- Whether the resident is tolerating the antibiotic
- How the resident’s signs and symptoms have changed since starting the antibiotic

Recommendation

Complete the Antibiotic Time-Out Checklist (*see reverse*) with prescribing clinician to determine whether antibiotic should be continued, modified or stopped.

References: 1) CDC Core Elements for Antibiotic Stewardship <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/pdfs/core-elements-antibiotic-stewardship-appendix-a.pdf> 2) Barlam, Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.



Antibiotic Time-Out

Purpose

Ensure antibiotics are prescribed for the right reason and with the right drug, dose, duration, route and documentation.

Rationale

Establish parameters for performance of an Antibiotic Time-Out and thereby optimize antibiotic selection and use based on clinical response and laboratory findings within 48-72 hours of antibiotic initiation.