

Overuse of Antibiotics for Diabetic Foot Wounds

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Overused Service & Rationale

- Overuse of antibiotics for diabetic foot wounds is common.
- Cascading consequences of patient harm include antibiotic resistance, increased admission rates, prolonged length of stay, antibiotic side effects (kidney damage, Clostridium difficile infection, etc.) and increased costs.

Setting & Population

University of New Mexico Hospital, the only academic medical center and level-1 trauma center in New Mexico.

- Many patients are referred from rural areas of the state.
- New Mexico is ranked 49th on national poverty level.

38%
Medicaid

27%
Medicare

16%
Uninsured

Early Critical Steps

- **Introduced the concept of high-value care** to leadership, providers, and staff through conversations, meetings, etc.
- **Identified and engaged stakeholders through networking.** Identified barriers to change, encountered previously unknown resources and sources of support in the system, and increased buy-in from leadership.
- **Obtained access to data and IRB approval.**



Intervention Strategies

Shared Purpose. Partnerships include:

1. A research team working to decrease lower extremity amputations;
2. Nurse-led foot and nail care clinic;
3. A hospital QI initiative to decrease C. difficile testing overuse;
4. Nursing excellence ambassador program within the hospital;
5. Antimicrobial Stewardship team to decrease antibiotic overuse in multiple hospital settings.

Prioritize the Work. Requested and obtained protected project time and seeking grant funding.

A culture of trust, innovation and improvement.

- Engaged 8 other inter-disciplinary team members as clinical champions.
- Collaborated with:
 - 7 of 10 primary care clinics;
 - 14 of 26 hospital departments impacted by interventions.



Key Lessons Learned

- **Access to high-value care experts and mentors** increased understanding and examples about creating new culture.
- **The Taking Action Framework was useful** as a guide to become a more effective change agent.
- **Cultivating new relationships** in local setting expanded potential impact as a clinical champion.

Next Steps

- Use access to data to **develop antibiogram for lower extremity diabetic foot wounds.**
- **Develop and implement evidence-based treatment guidelines** including computerized decision-support, a quick guide badge card for providers, and booklets posted in each unit.
- **Provide additional education and training opportunities** for all providers and staff, both online and classroom-based.
- **Seek grant funding** to establish RN-led foot care clinics.
- **Work with medical school** to expand high-value care concepts into the curriculum.