

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Audits Can Uncover, Target Problems With Antibiotic Use

These steps can provide key QA information.

Looking to improve antibiotic prescribing and prevent antimicrobial resistance? Conducting an audit of antibiotic use and outcomes might be just the ticket.

The purpose of such an audit would include the following objectives, according to the **American Medical Directors Association's** "Common Infections in the Long-Term Care Setting" clinical practice guideline:

- Measuring the extent to which antibiotic use meets accepted practice standards.
- Identifying patterns of use that may adversely affect patient outcomes.
- Documenting the costs of care.
- Collecting information to link antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance patterns within the facility.

An audit may include the following components:

- A review of antibiotic prescribing practices.
- Evaluation of the appropriateness of prescriptions.
- Intense surveillance of antibiotic resistance.
- Identification of the adverse effects of antibiotic therapy.