

Utah School of Medicine, Division of Epidemiology, Salt Lake City, Utah, <sup>6</sup>VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Session:** 223. Antimicrobial Stewardship: Qualitative Research  
*Saturday, October 6, 2018: 12:30 PM*

**Background.** We sought to gauge provider perceptions to prepare an intervention which featured audit-feedback reports, academic detailing, and communication training to improve antibiotic treatment of acute respiratory infections (ARIs).

**Methods.** One-on-one interviews with providers ( $n = 20$ ) from five VA Medical Centers were conducted in May–July 2017. Participants were recruited from emergency departments, primary care and community-based outreach clinics by e-mail. Interviews were conducted by telephone, audio-recorded, and transcribed. The Theory of Planned Behavior was used to develop semi-structured interview questions to capture attitudes, subjective norms (peer practices), planned future behaviors for managing ARIs, and intervention tools. Interviews were analyzed using codes developed from participant responses and categorized via consensus among authors. Codes were categorized into themes to map mental models.

**Results.** *Beliefs and Attitudes:* Providers were open to audit-feedback and tools to improve prescribing practices. *Barriers* to appropriate prescribing were perceived to include patient demand, time and resource limitations. Unfamiliarity with receipt of personal feedback and undefined roles of personnel to provide feedback within the clinic were anticipated to impede successful implementation. *Behavior Control:* Providers felt they had control to withhold or prescribe antibiotics. *Social norms:* Peer practices and lack of patient knowledge were perceived to drive patient demand. *Planned future behaviors:* The use of audit-feedback and communication strategies to address perceived patient demand were viable solutions to improve prescribing practices. However, utility of Shared Decision Making as a strategy varied due to provider expertise that antibiotics were not indicated for most ARIs; patient gaps in knowledge; and perceived patient insistence for an antibiotic.

**Conclusion.** Providers often intend to prescribe antibiotics appropriately yet barriers can influence practice. Potential interventions should provide tailored audit-feedback, address perceived patient demand, and support clinic structure to provide feedback. Strategies should consider time and resources available to address barriers.

**Disclosures.** All authors: No reported disclosures.

#### 1889. A Clinical Practice Assessment on *Clostridium difficile* Infection

Jovana Lubarda, PhD<sup>1</sup>; John Maeglin, MBA<sup>1</sup>; Debra Mathews, PharmD<sup>2</sup>; Trudi Delk, PharmD<sup>2</sup> and Edward Septimus, MD, FIDSA, FSHEA<sup>3,4</sup>; Medscape LLC, New York City, New York, <sup>2</sup>Synthetic Biologics, Rockville, Maryland, <sup>3</sup>Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, <sup>4</sup>Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Houston, Texas

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**Background.** This study assessed physicians' current practice patterns in prevention and management of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI).

**Methods.** A 25-question clinical practice assessment survey was made available to infectious disease (ID) specialists without monetary compensation or charge. Questions evaluated knowledge, competence, and barriers related to CDI, such as current and emerging strategies for limiting risk and achieving optimal outcomes related to antimicrobial use. The survey launched on a website dedicated to continuous professional development on October 27, 2017. Data were collected until January 16, 2018. Respondent confidentiality was maintained and responses were de-identified and aggregated prior to analyses.

**Results.** 139 ID specialist physicians completed the survey during the study period. Key findings include: (a) 76% were not aware of CDI incidence in the United States. (b) 34% had 20 or more cases of CDI in their practice in the past year. (c) While only 7% admitted their institution had been penalized for CDI under value-based purchasing rules, 50% were unsure. (d) While 96% were correctly able to identify antibiotics most closely associated with development of CDI, only 22% reported they were very confident in recognizing host risk factors for CDI, and 64% were not aware of the risks of CDI-associated death in older patients vs. middle-aged patients. (e) 38% use PCR for CDI diagnosis; 36% use a 2-step method combining different test types. (f) 39% were not aware of the relationship of the gut microbiome and CDI, although 61% reported that they would initiate an FDA-approved agent aimed at protecting the gut microbiome from antibiotic-mediated dysbiosis. (g) About 33% were not aware of new strategies being investigated for prevention of CDI and their mechanisms of action. (h) 94% reported that achieving optimal clinical outcomes and reducing selection for antimicrobial-resistance were the most important goals of antimicrobial stewardship.

**Conclusion.** This research yielded important insights into current clinical practice gaps among ID specialists regarding identification and prevention of CDI, and could serve to inform needs for continuing medical education.

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#### 1890. Healthcare Professionals' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs Regarding Factors That Contribute to Inappropriate Antibiotic Use

Jennifer O. Spicer, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Austyn W. Dukas, MA<sup>2</sup>; Kelly E. O'Neill, ABJ, BA<sup>2</sup>; Rosa Herrera, BS<sup>2</sup> and Lauri A. Hicks, DO<sup>3</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Division

of Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, <sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, <sup>3</sup>Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

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**Background.** In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched *Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work*, a campaign to improve antibiotic use for common outpatient respiratory infections. Although improvements in prescribing have been observed for children, inappropriate prescribing remains a problem in all healthcare settings. To update CDC's communications materials for the new *Be Antibiotics Aware* educational effort, we sought to identify factors that influence antibiotic prescribing behavior among healthcare professionals (HCPs).

**Methods.** We conducted semistructured interviews with 21 HCPs using purposive sampling to target geographic regions and provider types with the highest antibiotic prescribing rates. We recorded, transcribed, and analyzed interviews using emergent thematic analysis.

**Results.** The HCPs interviewed included nine family practitioners (four physicians, three nurse practitioners, and two physician assistants), four emergency medicine physicians, three urgent care providers, and five hospitalists. One new theme emerged: HCPs report that concern for adverse drug events does not affect whether HCPs prescribe an antibiotic but rather which antibiotic they choose. We also identified four themes that have been previously described: (1) HCPs recognize inappropriate prescribing occurs but deny doing it frequently themselves; (2) diagnostic uncertainty and the "fear of missing something" influence HCPs' decisions to initiate (and continue) antibiotics; (3) HCPs experience a tension between adherence to guideline recommendations and individualizing patient care based on comorbidities and sociodemographic characteristics; and (4) strength and continuity of the patient-provider relationship influences how antibiotics are prescribed. Each theme spanned all specialties, although some themes were more prevalent among certain specialties.

**Conclusion.** Adverse drug event messaging may be most effective if the focus is on improving antibiotic selection rather than the decision to prescribe. Similar principles influence antibiotic prescribing patterns of HCPs in different practice settings, which may suggest that similar messaging can be used across specialties.

**Disclosures.** All authors: No reported disclosures.

#### 1891. Assessing the Needs for Antimicrobial Stewardship Education and Acceptance Across a Spectrum of Prescribers, Nurses and Pharmacists at a Large Academic Medical Center

Christopher McCoy, PharmD, BCPS-AQ ID<sup>1</sup>; Deborah Stepanian, RN<sup>2</sup>; Conor M. Stack, MD<sup>3</sup>; Preeti Mehrotra, MD<sup>4</sup> and Howard S. Gold, MD, FIDSA<sup>3</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Antimicrobial Stewardship, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, <sup>2</sup>Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, <sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, <sup>4</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

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**Background.** Regulatory bodies and quality groups have adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Elements for Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASP) as a measure for accreditation and scoring healthcare institutions across the United States. Multiple elements are driven by educating and integrating staff across the provider network. The ideal method of providing education and addressing gaps is unknown. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the familiarity of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Prescribers regarding local ASP activities and services, as well as perceptions regarding patient care and value. Secondary objectives were to determine what educational tools are currently utilized and the desired method for future education.

**Methods.** Three distinct surveys were written for each provider type for Nurses, Pharmacists and Prescribers across ambulatory and inpatient sites. Each contained basic demographic data such as years in practice and primary practice site. Questions were developed to assess familiarity, perceived value, and overall satisfaction with the ASP. Additional items included the use of online ASP resources and desire for more education. The survey was delivered electronically to 5,091 providers.

**Results.** In total, 443 completed the survey, 267 Nurses, 160 Prescribers, and 16 Pharmacists. A majority of Nurses (67%) and Pharmacists (56%) worked on inpatient units. Prescribers were 48% from Medicine and 16% Hospitalists. Familiarity with the ASP was lowest among Nursing staff, 53% unaware, and highest among prescribers (55% very familiar, 8% not familiar) and pharmacists (56% very familiar and none unfamiliar) as seen in Figures 1 through 3. ASP-assisted harm prevention was identified by 43% and therapy optimization by 44%. Of the highly familiar prescribers and pharmacists, 90% rated ASP as a moderate to high value service. More than 80% of all disciplines expressed the desire for more education, primarily as didactic lectures (65%), intranet portal training (37%), or emails (36%).