

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

**202. Antifungal Stewardship: The Clinician's Perspective on Barriers to Implementation**

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**Background.** The presence of invasive fungal infections (IFIs) significantly increases morbidity and mortality for patients with immune suppression. Incorporating antifungal stewardship (AFS) principles into clinical practice through a multidisciplinary approach can maximize the efficient use of antifungals and maximize improved patient outcomes by directing appropriate patients to receive timely antifungal therapy. Additionally, stewardship interventions and guidance can favorably impact hospital and pharmacy costs associated with antifungal overuse. A survey was designed to identify barriers influencing implementation and utilization of AFS strategies.

**Methods.** A survey of 267 pharmacists and physicians was conducted to characterize perspectives on the value, approach and robustness of AFS strategies and programs in their hospitals. Additionally, they were asked to specify barriers to implementing an AFS program at their institution.

**Results.** Only 35% of respondents strongly agreed (a rating of 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale) that their institution valued the benefits of AFS. Less than one quarter of respondents (23%) strongly agreed that their institution had a robust AFS program in place. Additionally, only 32% strongly agreed that their institution took a multidisciplinary approach to AFS. The top 3 barriers to successful implementation of AFS were identified as: 1) lack of awareness of need and/or benefit of AFS (37%); 2) limited time/compensation for AFS efforts (31%); and 3) lack of physician participation (27%).

**Conclusion.** The survey results demonstrate the existing system-level limitations for successful implementation of AFS. Multilevel education regarding potential benefits of a robust AFS program and its impact on patient outcomes may favorably influence these limitations.

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