

Behaviour Changes aid in Successful Antimicrobial Stewardship Interventions



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PUBLICATION](#)

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[Systematic review of factors promoting behaviour change towards antibiotic use in hospitals.](#)
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A recent systematic review details how antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) interventions that include enablement, environmental restructuring, and education are likely to optimize antibiotic use.

Researchers identified the most relevant factors that promote behaviour change regarding antibiotic use in hospitals in a systematic review using 124 studies published between January 2015 and December 2020.

The review used the “**Behaviour Change Wheel**” to identify interventions that change healthcare professionals’ behaviours and “**Action, actor, context, target, time (AACTT)**” to describe how they are implemented.

Outcomes identified included effect of the interventions reported in terms of antibiotic consumption, antibiotic costs, appropriateness of prescription, duration of therapy, proportion of patients treated with antibiotics, or time to appropriate antibiotic therapy.

Of the studies that reported AMS programs to improve antibiotic use, 64% reduced antibiotic use or improved quality of antibiotic prescription. When using the Behaviour Change Wheel, enablement (mostly audit and feedback and real-time recommendations), environmental restructuring (mostly involving material resources, human resources and new tasks), and education were functions used in effective interventions. Prescribing was the most common action in AMS interventions when the AACTT framework was applied.



“Knowledge of factors associated with behaviour changes will help addressing local barriers and enablers before implementing [AMS] interventions,” the authors concluded.