

The Role of Infection Preventionists in Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Acute Care Hospitals

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BACKGROUND

- Healthcare-associated infections due to multiply-resistant organisms cause significant morbidity and mortality in acute care settings.
- Antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASP) are one practice used to limit resistance and are especially crucial given the lack of new antimicrobials in development.
- The aim of this study is to describe the presence of ASP in a national sample of acute care hospitals and examine the engagement of Infection Preventionists (IPs) in antimicrobial stewardship activities.

METHODS

- In winter of 2018, we conducted an electronic survey of IPs working in acute care who are members of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).
- An initial invitation email was sent out directly by APIC and reminders were included in a weekly e-blast over a period of 6 weeks.
- Overall, 255 IPs participated in the survey.

RESULTS

- Majority (79%) of IPs reported the presence of an established ASP; another 13% reported that ASP activities are conducted without a formalized ASP.
- The majority (88%) reported that an IP was a member of the core ASP team.
- Few reported budgeted financial support (14%) and specific time commitment in IP job description (9%) for ASP activities.
- Half agreed that IP role in ASP is well-defined (46%) and that IPs have adequate AS knowledge to participate in ASP (59%).
- Reported barriers for IP participation in ASP included:
 - Time (41%)
 - No allocated FTE (23%)
 - No defined IP role or responsibility (20%)
 - Lack of knowledge (18%)

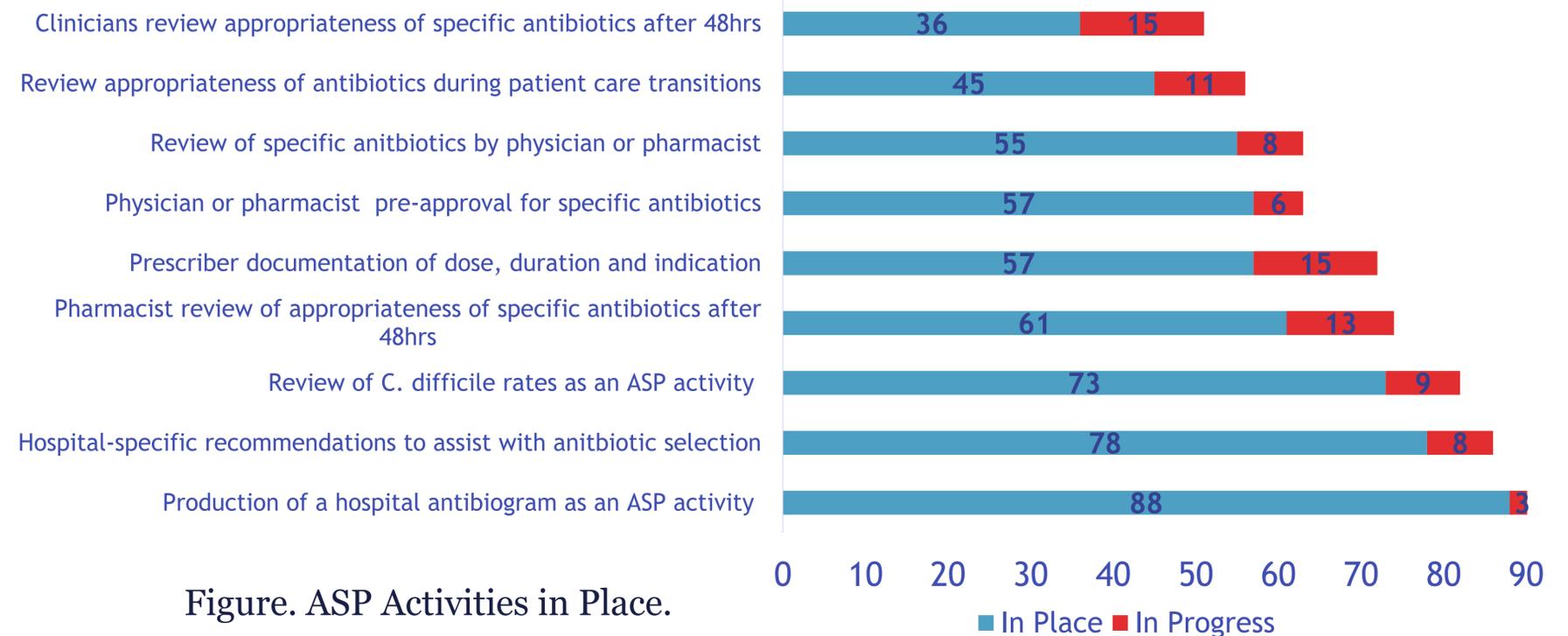


Figure. ASP Activities in Place.

CONCLUSIONS

- This survey represents a current snapshot of the implementation of ASP policies in U.S. acute care hospitals and identifies important barriers to IP engagement in ASP activities.
- Future work should focus how best to facilitate IP participation and engagement in ASP activities.

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