

Provincial Drugs & Therapeutics Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee

To:	Health PEI Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Nurses
From:	PD&T Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee
Date:	October 9 th , 2024
Re:	Health PEI Empiric Antimicrobial Management of Pneumonia

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee (ASSC) has developed the enclosed Empiric Antimicrobial Management of Pneumonia Guidelines which include:

- **Community Acquired Pneumonia**
- **Hospital Acquired Pneumonia**
- **Aspiration Pneumonia/Chemical Pneumonitis**
- **Ventilator Associated Pneumonia**
- **Pneumonia sections of the Sepsis Guideline**

These guidelines were adapted from Horizon Health's Antimicrobial Guidelines and have been reviewed by local physicians/pharmacists as well as the ASSC and PD&T. The guidelines consider local susceptibilities and are in keeping with national and international guidelines.

It is important to note that these guidelines were not designed for special populations such as pediatrics or pregnancy, and antimicrobial dosing may need adjustment in patients with renal impairment. You can find these guidelines, along with other Health PEI empiric treatment guidelines, on the Health PEI Microbiology website: www.healthpei.ca/src/microbiology, or on the [Firstline App](#).

Key Practice Points

- Treatment is based on disease severity as well as risk factors for organisms such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, MRSA, or resistant gram negative bacilli.
- The new community acquired pneumonia guideline categorizes patient severity using the CURB-65 score instead of SIRS/sepsis.
- For aspiration pneumonia, the role of anaerobes is controversial and historically has been overemphasized. Anaerobic coverage should be considered for patients who have poor oral hygiene, severe periodontal disease, putrid sputum, or suspected necrotizing pneumonia, empyema, or lung abscess.
- Information on duration of therapy and IV to PO step-down options are included.
- To avoid prolonged use of broad-spectrum antimicrobials, it is essential to de-escalate therapy according to the results of microbiologic culture and sensitivity results if available.
- All four pneumonia guidelines and the sepsis plan have associated order sets/powerplans that can be searched within Powerchart

Antimicrobial Stewardship Team update: Dr. Xiaofeng Ding, Medical Microbiologist and co-chair of the ASSC is leaving Health PEI and has accepted a new position in Victoria, BC. His work and dedication to antimicrobial stewardship at Health PEI over the last two years has been invaluable. We will miss him tremendously and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Temporarily, we will be pausing our carbapenem prospective audit and feedback. We will continue to do blood culture surveillance from Monday-Friday.

We have some vacant physician/nurse practitioner positions on our ASSC. If anyone is interested in joining our committee, please reach out to Fiona Mitchell – fc Mitchell@ihis.org.

Health PEI



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For questions please contact Fiona Mitchell (Provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist; 894-2587; fc Mitchell@ihis.org)