



Association of Medical Microbiology  
and Infectious Disease Canada

### **What is Antimicrobial Stewardship (AS)?**

Antimicrobial Stewardship is the appropriate and optimal use of antimicrobials. Programs for AS can be tailored to your centre's needs but include themes of QI and patient safety. You can use a variety of tools to achieve your AS goals, including collecting data to identify gaps in clinical practice, and behaviour change techniques to modify prescribing behaviour.

### **Why AS?**

AS is about quality care for our patients. Use of AS programs has been shown to lower rates of *C. difficile*, adverse drug events, and hospital-acquired infections. Appropriate antimicrobial use leads to cost avoidance and savings. In addition, having access to AS is now a Required Organizational Practice (ROP) for all acute care facilities in Canada by Accreditation Canada.

### **What can I do to start AS at my institution?**

To have success in the long term, you need support for your program from your hospital or regional leadership, as well as funding. It can be challenging for those without experience in either AS or program management to start a new clinical program from the ground up, especially during times of fiscal restraint. ASRC created a business case model to help effectively solicit those funds.

### **What exactly is this business case model and why would I need it?**

This business case template for an AS program was created by our multidisciplinary committee at AMMI Canada. Members all have expertise and experience in AS, as well as adult and pediatric infectious diseases, lab medicine, pharmacy, and public health.

It is available by open access on AMMI Canada's website and is made up of 5 parts – an introduction/executive summary section plus 4 detailed sections that provide the background information you need on the benefits and consequences of antimicrobials, the impact of antimicrobial resistant organisms, and the evidence that supports robust AS programs. There is a separate Excel® file that contains a business case analysis template.

## **Why do I need to use a Business Case Model?**

A business case is a formal, explicit document of the planning process for your program proposal. It provides the necessary information and framework to make the business “pitch” to an audience of health care administrators and executives. This model for an AS program has the elements of what should go into a good business plan – it is clear, concise, consistent, coherent, credible, and we hope, convincing. It essentially brings in external/national expertise which you may not have readily available locally, and has already done the majority of literature review and document preparation for you.

## **How do I use the Business Case Model?**

After downloading the files from the AMMI Canada website, you simply adapt them to your specific needs, by removing or adding sections. For example, if you are outside Canada, some of the text would not be applicable. If you are making a proposal for AS in a setting outside of an adult acute care centre, such as for pediatrics, cancer care, or rehab, you may need to modify the content to reflect this.

There are several highlighted sections within the text for you to insert your local data, or if you have no local data, these can be removed. Similarly, the business case analysis template is adaptable to your particular situation and variables, including the size and nature of your institution.

We would appreciate all comments and feedback on the form, including the outcome of proposals submitted using this model. Feedback can be submitted to AMMI Canada via email to [communications@ammi.ca](mailto:communications@ammi.ca).