

## Antibiotic Default Duration Removal Summary

Excess days of antimicrobial therapy can lead to unintended patient safety risks, such as adverse drug events, drug resistant bacteria, and *C. difficile* infection. DUHS is committed to providing the safest and most effective care through antimicrobial stewardship.

Default antibiotic durations imbedded in DUHS MaestroCare electronic prescription (e-script) order entry processes led to excess antibiotic exposures due to longer than necessary durations. FDA released enhanced warnings about safety risks associated with fluoroquinolone antibiotics in 2016 and in 2018. In a pilot evaluation, default e-script durations for the fluoroquinolone class of antibiotics were removed last year. A significant reduction in exposure, with over 2000 days of fluoroquinolones avoided, was seen in the 3 months after default removal.

Based on this experience, the following will be implemented on 10/22/2018:

- 1) Default duration for all e-script antibiotics will be removed. Note this change will not impact care plans.
- 2) Antibiotic e-scripts duration field will be required.
- 3) [CustomID.org](http://CustomID.org) reference links will be included on all inpatient and e-script antimicrobial orders
- 4) Inpatient and outpatient duration guideline reference [links](#) will be included on all inpatient and e-script antimicrobial orders

Thank you for ensuring our patients are safely treated with the right antimicrobial, the right dose, at the right time, with the right duration, and only when needed.

The Duke Antimicrobial Stewardship Evaluation Team ([ASET](#)) is a [nationally recognized leader](#) in antimicrobial stewardship and works to optimize decisions about antimicrobials at DUHS. Visit [Customid.org](http://Customid.org) for more information about antimicrobial stewardship at DUHS.