

Policy/Procedure: DUHS Pharmacy: Adult and Pediatric Pharmacy Policy for Antimicrobial Duration of Therapy

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Approved By	Date Approved
DUHS Pharmacy & Medication Management Committee	01/06/2025

Review History: January 2025

Applicability:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory Surgery Center Arrington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke University Hospital (DUH) (both campuses) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Davis Ambulatory Surgery Center (DASC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Durham Campus Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duke Health Integrated Practice (DHIP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Duke Raleigh Campus Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duke Health Technology Services (DHTS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Revenue Management Organization (PRMO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duke HomeCare & Hospice (DHCH) | <input type="checkbox"/> Population Health Management Office (PHMO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duke Primary Care (DPC) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke Regional Hospital (DRH) | |

Purpose: To outline the process for pharmacists to assist providers in setting antimicrobial duration of therapy stop dates to optimize patient care for adult and pediatric patients in the inpatient setting. Specifically, this policy allows pharmacists to add and/or update stop dates in antimicrobial orders when clearly defined by prescribers in the electronic medical record notes. Providers may establish duration of therapy as clinically appropriate and are not restricted to the procedures outlined in this policy.

Level:

- ☒ Interdependent - asterisked [*] items require an order from a health care practitioner licensed to prescribe medical therapy.
- ☐ Independent – no provider order required.

Personnel: DUHS Medical Staff and Inpatient Pharmacists

Competencies/Skills: N/A

Required Resources: N/A

Definitions: N/A

Policy Statement: Inappropriate durations of therapy can result in adverse outcomes for patients, including the development of antimicrobial resistance and secondary infections such as *C. difficile* and fungi. Appropriate use of antimicrobial therapy minimizes resistant infections, drug-related adverse events, and cost. This policy would allow pharmacists to add and/or update stop dates in antimicrobial orders when clearly defined by prescribers in the electronic medical record.

Procedure:

- a) Inclusion criteria (all criteria must be met for end dates to be entered into antimicrobial orders)

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- i) Patients hospitalized at DUH (Durham or Raleigh campus) or DRH
 - ii) A specific stop date or definitive duration of any antimicrobial therapy is clearly documented by a primary team prescribing practitioner in the patient's medical record
 - (1) Acceptable documentation of a stop date in the medical record includes either of the following:
 - (a) Listed calendar end date
 - (b) Predefined length of therapy with a clearly designated first day of therapy
 - iii) The duration of antimicrobial therapy documented in the patient's medical record is in line with national guidelines and/or the DUHS Targeted Duration of Antimicrobial Therapy Policy for Adults or Pediatrics
- b) *Order Entry
- i) The pharmacist may edit the antimicrobial order to enter the specific stop date if the above inclusion criteria are met and notify the first call provider via the following:
 - (1) DUH Durham Campus – The pharmacist will send a courtesy page or secure chat to the first call provider to notify them of this action.
 - (2) DUH Raleigh Campus – The pharmacist will write a progress note documenting the antimicrobial stop date revision. In addition, the pharmacist will send a courtesy page or secure chat to the first call provider to notify them of the antimicrobial order revision.
 - (1) Duke Regional Hospital (DRH) – The pharmacist will send a courtesy page or secure chat to the first call provider to notify them of this action. In addition, the pharmacist may amend orders and pend for provider signature.
 - ii) If there is uncertainty regarding the stop date, including a discrepancy between a primary team and a consultant team's recommended duration of therapy, the pharmacist must contact the first call provider prior to adding a stop date to the antimicrobial order
 - (1) For example, a start date for the agreed upon duration may need clarification with the clinical team prior to setting the planned stop date.

Notes about Start/Stop Days of Therapy

- 1. Day 1 should be considered the first day of therapy of an antibiotic to which the pathogen was susceptible (if results available) and $\geq 50\%$ of the total daily dose was received. For patients requiring source control interventions, day 1 is the day of source control or first day of effective therapy, whichever came last.
- 2. When establishing "stop dates" clinicians should take into account completed 24-hour intervals of antibiotics to avoid abbreviated courses (eg. calculate the total doses of therapy needed to complete the course of therapy)

REFERENCES

References:

- 1. CustomID Adult Antimicrobial Duration Guidance. June 2024.
- 2. CustomID Pediatric Antimicrobial Duration Guidance. July 2023.

Authoritative Source: DUHS AS-FET and DUHS PMMC

Associated Policies:

[DUHS Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy](#)