

Coastlink is committed to the principles of Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS), and its contribution to improving patient care outcomes whilst mitigating adverse consequences, and reducing inappropriate antimicrobial use.

AMS reduces the risks of unnecessary and inappropriate use of antimicrobials, client morbidity and mortality, and bacterial resistance rates and healthcare costs. AMS is an integral component of client safety and important for preserving the effectiveness of antimicrobials currently available.

Coastlink will:

- Adhere to safe and effective use of antimicrobials as prescribed by a medical practitioner

Record of policy development

Version	Date approved	Date for review
V1.0	21 February 2020 - Board	21 February 2022

Responsibilities and delegations

This policy applies to	Coastlink Staff
Specific responsibilities	Operations Manager
Policy approval	Coastlink Board

Policy context – this policy relates to:

Standards	Clinical Care Standards, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biosecurity Act 2015 Cth</i> • <i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (NSW)</i> • <i>Stock Medicines Regulation 2010 (NSW)</i> • <i>Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)</i>
Contractual obligations	CHSP contract with Health and NDIS Terms of Business
Organisation policies	6 – Risk Management; and Medications Policy
Forms, record keeping, other documents	Coastlink Policies and Procedures Manual

Definitions

Antimicrobial is a chemical substance that kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria, viruses and fungi, including yeasts or moulds.

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is an ongoing commitment to optimise antimicrobial use in order to improve patient outcomes, ensure cost-effective therapy and reduce adverse consequences of antimicrobial use, including antimicrobial resistance.

Clinician is a healthcare provider, trained as a health professional. Clinicians include registered and non-registered practitioners, or a team of health professionals, who provide direct clinical care.

Formulary is a list of medicines, including antimicrobial agents, which have been approved by an authority (within an organisation or network, or nationally) for use. Formulary systems establish rules governing medicine use.

Procedures

Governance of Antimicrobial Stewardship

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Coastlink's medication policy only allows for the provision of medications as prescribed by a medical practitioner. All medications must be provided in a Webster pack or other blister pack with an accompanying letter from the client's doctor.

Where a client is prescribed antibiotics, Coastlink staff will ensure the medications provided are as prescribed.

Where a resident client is prescribed antibiotics while in the accompaniment of a Coastlink staff member, Coastlink staff will ensure they ask the medical practitioner to ensure the prescription of antimicrobials will be guided by the latest version of the *Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic*.

Procedures for review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary Annually by the Compliance Officer and any changes made will be approved by the Coastlink Board of Directors