



AUSTRALIA

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The National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS) is the most popular point prevalence survey used by antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) teams in New South Wales (NSW), Australia. The NAPS was developed and implemented by the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The Hospital NAPS provides teams with rich data on what antimicrobials are commonly prescribed in their facility and why, rates of guideline compliance and appropriateness, and a number of other antimicrobial prescribing indicators including documentation of an indication and a duration or review date for antimicrobial therapy. By contributing each year, AMS teams can track improvement and identify any problem areas for their AMS programme to focus on. We can also do this at state and national levels with aggregated data.

The number of hospitals participating in the Hospital NAPS is growing every year, with 94 NSW hospitals contributing in 2015. One of the reasons why our teams love the Hospital NAPS is that it allows them to benchmark their rates of compliance, appropriateness and other indicators with other hospitals. The more hospitals that participate, the more useful and accurate the benchmarked data is.

We encourage NSW hospitals to undertake the NAPS as a point prevalence survey every year in the weeks or months leading up to Antibiotic Awareness Week. That way, they can feedback survey results in a timely manner while providing education and training on quality use of antimicrobials.

We also suggest that AMS teams get a range of people involved in conducting the NAPS – the more students, nurses, pharmacists, doctors and managers that are involved in reviews of antibiotic use, the more likely it is that AMS will be seen as a shared responsibility and an everyday activity.

Testimonials from NAPS users from across Australia

Reproduced from the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey Report 2014¹ and 2015²

On support provided by the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS) team:

“I loved this audit. I really appreciated the timeliness in which I could access expert opinion and felt supported in conducting the audit. Local medical officers appreciated the audit and feedback, which we turned into an education session. Very beneficial all round!”

On the general usefulness of the survey to a hospital AMS programme:

“By including all types of antimicrobial use, we are able to identify some areas that are not well captured by usual surveillance ... (this) allows us to show areas of practice that are not well covered by Therapeutic Guidelines, but are relevant at our institution. This tells us where a local guideline might be useful.”

“NAPS underpins our AMS [antimicrobial stewardship] program as, being a small rural hospital group, we have little other means of getting robust data in a meaningful way. It has changed the way I view our AMS program and will be a much bigger part of the program in the future. Thank you so much to the NAPS team!!!”

“NAPS done once a year as a whole facility point prevalence survey is incredibly valuable to us as a snapshot of antimicrobial usage and areas to improve. It offers real benefits in terms of accreditation and procedure governance, and having a survey that captures just about everything is extremely useful for reporting purposes.”

On feedback of survey results to doctors:

“We conduct a ‘pharmacy’ session with local GP VMOs [visiting medical officers] every two months ... They found this very worthwhile, and the discussion that ensued was a terrific learning opportunity for the younger GPs present, and certainly I got to see things from the VMO’s perspective also”

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Source:

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (2015). [*Antimicrobial prescribing practice in Australian hospitals: results of the 2014 National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey*](#), ACSQHC, Sydney.
2. National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. [*Antimicrobial prescribing practice in Australian hospitals: Results of the 2015 National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey*](#). Sydney: ACSQHC; 2016.