When prescribing an antibiotic, make sure that the order contains dose, duration and indication.

Consider using appropriate decision-support tools and hospital policies and guidelines to choose the right antibiotics for the suspected focus of infection.

Include laboratory cultures as a routine component of ordering antibiotics.

Review antibiotics 24-48 hours after orders are initiated to answer these key questions:

- Does this patient have an infection that will respond to antibiotics?
- Is the patient on the right dose and route of administration? Ensure the dose is appropriate for renal function and suspected infection, and consider switching parenteral antibiotics to oral formulations.
- Can a more targeted antibiotic be used to treat the infection (de-escalate)?
- How long should the patient receive the antibiotic(s)?

Review antibiotics at daily multidisciplinary rounds using checklists or other reminders to discuss duration, indication and switching to oral route if appropriate with the care team.

Implement a daily time-out to consider de-escalation of antibiotics, particularly at 24-48 hours or when cultures are available. Use culture data to help guide the appropriate antibiotics.

References:

www.FightTheResistance.org