Announcing the UCSF Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

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On behalf of Adrienne Green, MD

Dear Colleagues:

Every year in the US, antibiotic resistant bacteria cause over 2 million illnesses and 23,000 deaths. In March 2015, the White House released the National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, calling for establishment of antimicrobial stewardship programs in all acute care hospitals, with goals of reducing inappropriate antibiotic utilization by 20% in inpatient settings, and by 50% in outpatient settings, by 2020. UCSF is committed to doing our part by establishing a robust antimicrobial stewardship program and reducing unnecessary antibiotic use. We would like to introduce the revamped UCSF Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) and highlight some key elements of the program:

1. Who are we?

The ASP is comprised of the Medical Directors (Rachel Wattier, MD, MHS for Pediatric ASP, Sarah Doernberg, MD, MAS for Adult ASP) and the ASP Pharmacy Specialists (led by Jonathan Faldasz, PharmD for Mission Bay and Alex Hilts-Horeczko, PharmD for Parnassus). We work closely with Microbiology, Hospital Epidemiology/Infection Control, Information Technology, and clinical services.

2. What do we do?

Our program coordinates interventions to promote appropriate use of antibiotics at UCSF including selection of the optimal antibiotic drug, dose, duration, and route. Our ultimate goal is to improve patient outcomes and reduce adverse consequences of antibiotic use.

3. How do we do this?

Our program has many elements, including education, development of clinical guidelines, restriction of high-risk drugs, and tracking of outcomes, but the core of our program is antibiotic review and feedback. Historically, this feedback has been delivered through team pharmacists, but as our program grows, you should expect to see some changes:

- Increased contact from the ASP directly (both pharmacists and physicians) to prescribing providers via page, text, or phone call.
- Documentation of our recommendations in the medical record to improve clarity of recommendations and to allow other providers to understand why antimicrobial changes are being recommended.
- Greater access to focused advice about antibiotic selection via pager (443-9421) at Parnassus and Voalte (514-1275) at Mission Bay. This service does not replace Infectious Diseases Consultation, which, as always, remains an available option for complex questions.
- Service-specific data on antibiotic usage will be available in the upcoming months, in addition to aggregate hospital-wide data.

Please feel free to contact us at any time. We welcome collaborators!

All the best,

Sarah Doernberg, Jonathan Faldasz, Alex Hilts-Horeczko, and Rachel Wattier