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**TITLE:**                    **INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSULTATIONS FOR  
PROLONGED DURATION INTRAVENOUS  
ANTIMICROBIALS**

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**APPLICABILITY:**    All sites and facilities; acute care and ambulatory care.

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**RELATED  
POLICIES:**

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**DEFINITIONS:**        **Most responsible prescriber (MRP)** – refers to the physician, nurse practitioner, or team that is overseeing the patient’s antimicrobial therapy

**Antimicrobials** – refers to antibiotics, antifungals, and antivirals

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**COMPETENCY  
REQUIREMENTS:**    Must be a registered prescriber with the College of Physicians & Surgeons and contracted to provide care within Northern Health facilities.

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**DOCUMENT QUICK LINKS**

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**KEY POINTS**

- Traditionally recommended durations of therapy have lacked scientific evidence leading to unnecessary prolonged courses.
- Duration of therapy should be based on evidence when available and an assessment of whether patients have had a clinical response.
- Infectious Disease specialists can provide guidance in more complicated and/or severe cases.

**POLICY STATEMENT (ALL STAFF MUST COMPLY)**

Any patient prescribed intravenous antimicrobial therapy for more than eight weeks will require a consult from an Infectious Disease specialist. An Infectious Disease Specialist’s approval must be obtained in order to continue a course of treatment beyond a planned eight week duration or if a reorder of antimicrobials would lead to consecutive treatment beyond eight weeks total.

## EQUIPMENT

- An Infectious Disease specialist can be contacted via Northern RACE advice line (1-855-605-7223) or UHNBC switchboard (250-565-2000).

## CLINICAL PRACTICE STANDARD (ALWAYS USE PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AND DOCUMENT ANY DEVIATION FROM THE STANDARD)

The most responsible prescriber requests an Infectious Disease (ID) consult via phone when prescribing IV antimicrobials for more than eight weeks.

- This includes both orders for a planned greater than eight week duration of treatment or when consecutive reorders of the antimicrobial result in a greater than eight week duration of treatment.

In the event that a consult is not requested by the most responsible prescriber within one week past the eight week timeframe for therapy, the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) program lead or designate facilitates an automatic ID consultation for all acute care inpatients and outpatients prescribed IV antimicrobials for more than eight weeks.

The process by which the AMS program lead or designate facilitates these consults originates in the hospital pharmacy most responsible for provision of this therapy.

The AMS program lead or designate provides the NH ID specialist on service with the relevant patient data.

## DOCUMENTATION

Written confirmation that a consult has been generated should be documented within the medication orders section of the patient chart. Results of the consult will be documented within the patient's electronic chart or written within the progress notes section of the paper chart. The MRP will be responsible for documenting the consulting physician's plan if the consultant is external to NH.

## REFERENCES

- Lemmen SW et al. Influence of an Infectious Disease Consulting service on Quality and Costs of Antibiotic prescriptions in a University Hospital. *Scand J Infect Dis* 33:219 – 221. 2001
- Sharma R et al. Impact of Mandatory Inpatient Infectious Disease Consultation on Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy. *Am J Med Sci* 2005;330(2):60-64
- Tamma et al. Rethinking How Antibiotics are Prescribed Incorporating the 4 moments of antibiotic decision making into clinical practice. *American Medical Association. JAMA*. 2018

## KEYWORDS

Antimicrobials, outpatient IV therapy, IV antimicrobials, infectious disease consults, IV antimicrobial duration, intravenous, inpatient IV therapy, acute IV therapy, ID

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