

The Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making in Long-Term Care

Moment 1 Make the Diagnosis

Does the resident have symptoms that suggest an infection?

- Fever
- Productive cough
- Dysuria
- Purulence from skin
- Warm, red skin

Moment 2 Cultures & Empiric Therapy

What type of infection is it?
Have we collected appropriate cultures before starting antibiotics?
What empiric therapy should be initiated?

Moment 3 Length of Therapy

What duration of antibiotic therapy is needed for the resident's diagnosis?

Most bacterial infections need 7 days or less of antibiotics:

- Urinary tract infection (3 to 7 days)
- Pneumonia (5 to 7 days)
- Cellulitis (5 days)
- Some bloodstream infections (7 days)

Moment 4 Stop, Narrow, or Change to Oral

It's been 2–3 days since we started antibiotics. Re-evaluate the resident and review results of diagnostic tests.

- Can we stop antibiotics?
- Can we narrow therapy?
- Can we change from intravenous to oral therapy?

