

## Documents

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**Nationwide survey of pharmacists' involvement in antimicrobial stewardship programs in Nigerian tertiary hospitals**

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**Abstract**

**Objectives:** To evaluate the activities and barriers to hospital pharmacists' participation in antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASP) in Nigerian tertiary hospitals. **Methods:** A cross-sectional nationwide online survey was conducted over a 6-week period between May and June 2019. Invitation was sent to all the Heads of pharmacy department or pharmacists in charge of infectious diseases (ID) or antimicrobial pharmacists in tertiary hospitals in Nigeria. A validated questionnaire that consist of 24-items was used for data collection. **Results:** Forty-five hospitals were invited and 37 completed the survey (response rate, 82.2%). Five (13.5%) hospitals had a formal antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) team, with each of them having pharmacist representation. Regardless of the existence of an AMS team, hospital pharmacists have implemented AMS strategies, including evaluation of the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescriptions (54.1%) and monitoring of antimicrobial consumption (48.6%). The most common barriers to pharmacists' involvement in ASP were lack of training in AMS and ID (51.4%), lack of pharmacists with ID specialisation (40.5%) and lack of support from hospital administrators (37.8%). The majority of the pharmacists recommended training in AMS and ID (100%), participation on ward rounds (89.2%) and employment of more pharmacists (73%) as strategies to improve pharmacists' participation in ASP.

**Conclusions:** Hospital pharmacists are actively involved in AMS activities despite the lack of established AMS teams in most tertiary hospitals in Nigeria. However, lack of training and personnel were major barriers to pharmacist's involvement in ASP. © 2019 International Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

**Author Keywords**

Antimicrobial stewardship; Hospital pharmacists; Nigeria; Tertiary hospitals

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