Checklist for Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship

Outpatient clinicians and healthcare facilities can take steps to implement antibiotic stewardship activities. Use this checklist as a baseline assessment of policies and practices which are in place. Then use the checklist to review progress in expanding stewardship activities on a regular basis (e.g., annually).

Commitment		
1. Can your facility demonstrate dedication to and accountability for optimizing antibiotic prescribing and patient safety related to antibiotics?	☐*Yes*	☐*No*
If yes, indicate which of the following are in place. (Select all that apply.) ☐ **Write and display public commitments in support of antibiotic stewardship.** ☐ **Identify a single leader to direct antibiotic stewardship activities within a facility.** ☐ **Include antibiotic stewardship-related duties in position descriptions or job evaluation criteria.** ☐ **Communicate with all clinic staff to set patient expectations.**		
Action		
2. Has your facility implemented at least one policy or practice to improve antibiotic prescribing?	☐*Yes*	☐*No*
If yes, indicate which interventions are in place. (Select all that apply.) ☐ **Use evidence-based diagnostic criteria and treatment recommendations.** ☐ **Use delayed prescribing practices or watchful waiting, when appropriate.** ☐ **Provide communications skills training for clinicians.** ☐ **Require explicit written justification in the medical record for non-recommended antibiotic prescribing.** ☐ **Provide support for clinical decisions.** ☐ **Use call centers, nurse hotlines, or pharmacist consultations as triage systems to prevent unnecessary visits**.		
Tracking and Reporting		
3. Does your facility monitor at least one aspect of antibiotic prescribing?	☐*Yes*	☐*No*
If yes, indicate which of the following are being tracked. (Select all that apply.) ☐ **Self-evaluate antibiotic prescribing practices. (This intervention only applies to solo practitioners or practices with fewer than 5 clinicians as long as all clinicians participate.)** ☐ **Participate in continuing medical education and quality improvement activities to track and improve antibiotic prescribing. (This intervention only applies if all clinicians in the practice participate in the activity.)** ☐ **Track and report antibiotic prescribing for one or more high priority conditions.** ☐ **Track and report the percentage of all visits leading to antibiotic prescriptions.** ☐ **(If already tracking and reporting one of the above) Track and report, at the level of a health care system, complications of antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance trends among common outpatient bacterial pathogens.** ☐ **Assess and share performance on quality measures and established reduction goals addressing appropriate antibiotic prescribing from health care plans and payers.**		
Education and Expertise		
4. Does your facility provide resources to clinicians and patients on evidence-based antibiotic prescribing?	☐*Yes*	☐*No*
If yes, indicate how your facility provides antibiotic stewardship education to patients. (Select all that apply.) ☐ **Use effective communications strategies to educate patients about when antibiotics are and are not needed.** ☐ **Educate about the potential harms of antibiotic treatment.** ☐ **Provide patient education materials.** If yes, indicate how your facility provides antibiotic stewardship education to clinicians. (Select all that apply.) ☐ **Provide face-to-face educational training (academic detailing).** ☐ **Provide continuing education activities for clinicians.** ☐ **Ensure timely access to persons with expertise.**		