



Intercare Corporate Group Inc.  
 501- 5920 Macleod Trail SW  
 Calgary, AB  
 T2H 0K2  
 Tel: (403) 255-4969  
 Fax: (403) 252-6591  
 www.intercarealberta.com

Email questions or feedback to:  
 feedback@intercarealberta.com

Intercare Corporate Group Inc. - "The Heart of Excellence"

# Infection Prevention & Control

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## Using Behavioural Science to Improve Antibiotic Prescribing in Long Term Care Homes

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Health professionals in LTC homes are key partners in the battle against **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**. With this in mind, Intercare's **Southwood Care Home** is currently partnering with the **Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)** on a national project to decrease overprescribing of antibiotics in long term care homes (LTC homes) in Canada.

**AMR** is pertinent in LTC Homes where residents are clinically frail and at higher risk of infection and subsequent antibiotic use. For example, Asymptomatic Bacteriuria (ASB) – the presence of bacteria in the urine, which causes a positive urine culture, without the clinical symptoms of UTI – is common in LTC residents and contributes to the overprescribing of antibiotics.

**Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)** is a system-wide approach that recognizes the role of residents, prescribers, producers and the public in the effort to measure and improve how antimicrobials are prescribed by clinicians and used by residents.

#### The Project's Goal

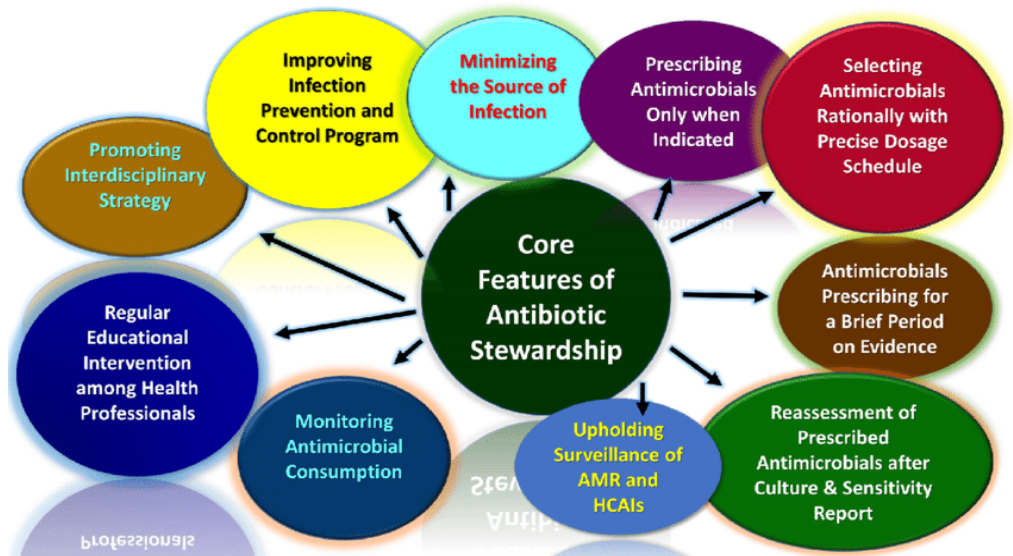
- To test quality improvement (QI) exercises at ten (10) LTC homes in six (6) provinces across Canada that promote best practices for the management of Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs).

#### The Project's Motivation

- A 2018 a Canadian study found seven (7) out of ten (10) antibiotic prescriptions for UTIs in LTC homes were not needed.
- LTC residents are vulnerable to adverse outcomes linked to unnecessary antibiotic use.

#### What will the Project Involve?

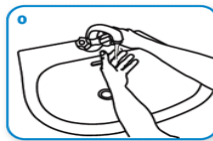
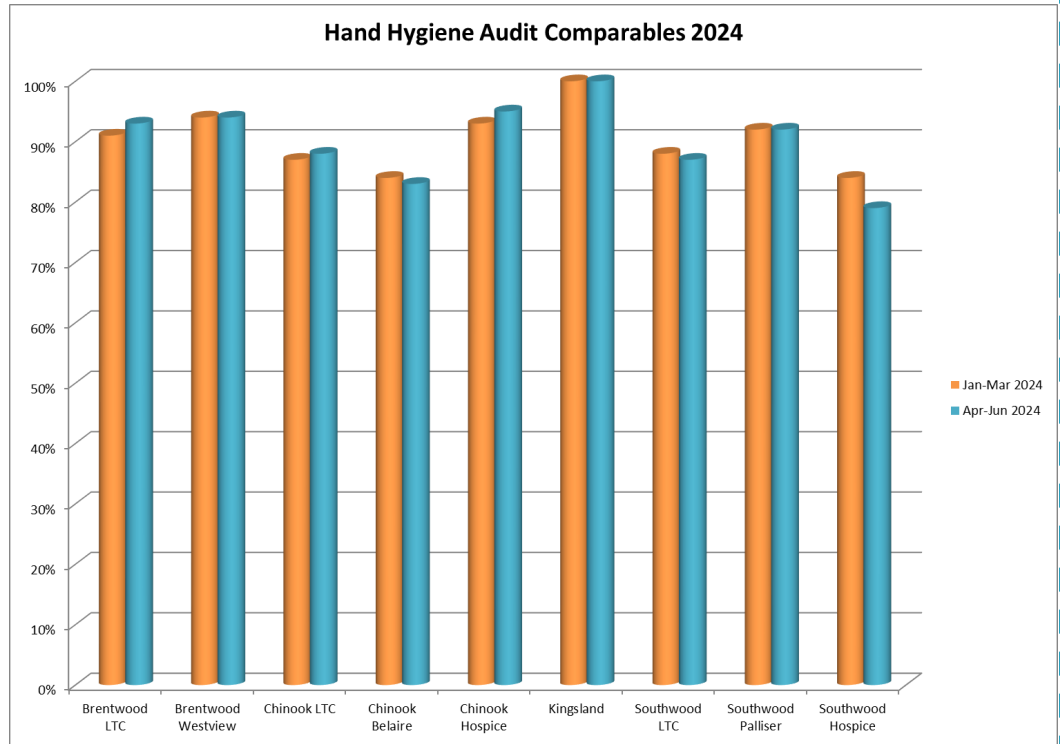
- Given this, the Project will involve the use of two (2) quality improvement (QI) exercises:
  - Education will be provided for Essential Care Providers ('ECP' are typically family or close friends of a resident ) on best practices for UTI treatment and ways they can help; and
  - Facility-level feedback will be provided on a monthly basis to non-regulated care providers, nurses and physicians about the LTC home's urine culture usage / ordering.



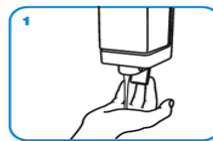
## Hand Hygiene Audit Results

Hand Hygiene Auditing is done on a monthly basis at all Intercare sites. During these audits, the “Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene” are observed, as well as proper glove use.

The graph below shows results of on-going Hand Hygiene Auditing at Intercare Care Homes.



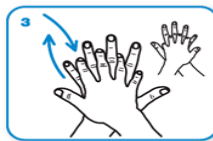
Wet hands with water



apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



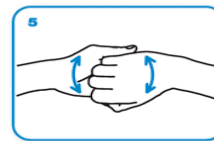
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



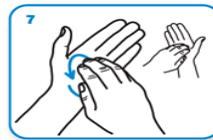
palm to palm with fingers interlaced



backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



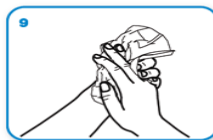
rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



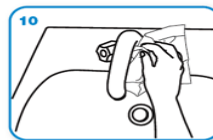
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



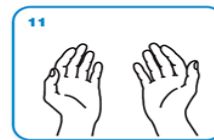
Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.