



AMS Self-Assessment Tool for Residential Aged Care Services (AMS SAT for RACS)

User Guide

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Australian Government
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission



**Better use
of antibiotics**

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Abbreviations

AMS Antimicrobial Stewardship

RACS Residential Aged Care Service

Introduction

Results from consecutive [Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Surveys](#) and the [final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#) point to concerning, ongoing levels of inappropriate antimicrobial use in Australian residential aged care services. Inappropriate antimicrobial use can contribute to antimicrobial resistance

Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) measures and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) interventions improve infectious disease outcomes and help address the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

The Aged Care Quality Standards reflect the importance of AMS and require aged care providers to demonstrate actions to minimise infection-related risks to consumers, the workforce, and the community. The draft strengthened Quality Standards define AMS as an on-going effort by a provider to reduce the risks associated with increasing antimicrobial resistance and to extend the effectiveness of antimicrobial treatments. It can include a broad range of strategies, such as monitoring and reviewing how antimicrobials are used.

Under current Aged Care Quality Standards (2019) AMS is included under Standard 3 requirement (3)(g) and Standard 8 requirement (3)(e). Specific actions required to achieve these criteria are provided in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's "Guidance and resources for providers to support Aged Care Quality Standards". In the draft [strengthened Quality Standards](#) (November 2023) AMS is included under Outcome 5.2 and Outcome 5.3.

The AMS Self-Assessment tool for Residential Aged Care Services tool (AMS SAT) has been developed to help services measure AMS activities undertaken and their contribution towards an AMS program. **The AMS SAT is not intended for use as a benchmarking tool for comparison between services or as a Commission assessment tool.**

Aged Care Quality Standards

Standard 3 requirement (3)(g)

Minimisation of infection-related risks through implementing:

- i. standard and transmission-based precautions to prevent and control infection and
- ii. practices to promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use to support optimal care and reduce the risk of increasing resistance to antibiotics.

Standard 8 requirement (3)(e)

Effective organisation wide systems are required for preventing, managing and controlling infections and antimicrobial resistance.

Where clinical care is provided – a clinical governance framework including but not limited to the following:

- i. antimicrobial stewardship
- ii. minimising the use of restraint

AMS SAT for RACS

The AMS Self-Assessment tool for Residential Aged Care Services (AMS SAT) has been developed to support delivery of service-led AMS programs and continuous improvement activities. It is intended to support clinical, Infection Prevention and Control Leads and committees with service-level oversight of AMS (e.g. Medication Advisory Committees) to review their current AMS program and identify areas for improvement.

The tool has:

1. a framework for an AMS program in RACS
2. 7 AMS core components
3. a wide range of activities for consideration that contribute towards core components.

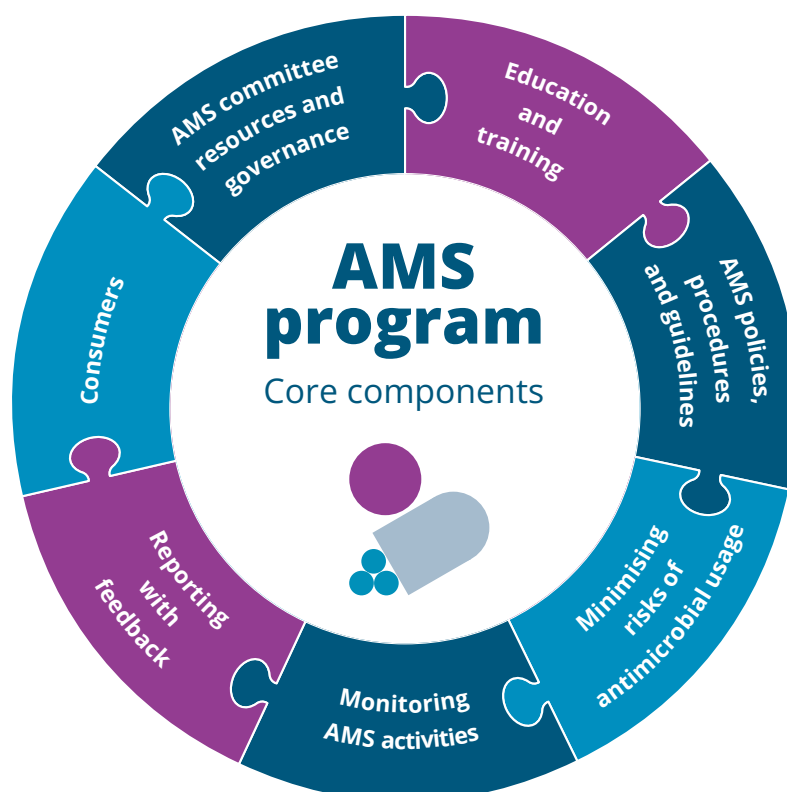
The tool is designed to allow RACS to identify areas where they are already undertaking activities and areas that can be strengthened.

This tool provides a menu of activities that contribute to AMS program in a service.

To support services, the AMS SAT provides some suggestions of activities that reflect current best-practice recommendations. Services should perform regular reviews of their AMS activities as part of annual review of their AMS program. Services should choose activities that are best suited to their setting and available resources. When performed regularly (e.g. annually), this tool can be used to review currency of evidence of actions and to capture changes to the AMS program over time.

A resource list is provided in this user guide with more information on recommended AMS approaches.

The AMS-SAT tool has been developed to help services measure AMS activities undertaken and their contribution towards an AMS program. The tool is aligned with recommendations by the [Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care](#) (the AMS Book).



Draft strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards (Nov 2023)

Outcome 5.2: Preventing and controlling infections in clinical care

Outcome statement:

Older people, workers, health professionals and others are encouraged and supported to use antimicrobials appropriately to reduce risks of increasing resistance.

Infection risks are minimised and, if they occur, are managed effectively.

Outcome 5.3: Safe and quality use of medicines

Outcome statement:





Older people, workers and health professionals are encouraged and supported to use medicines in a way that maximises benefits and minimises the risks of harm.

Medicines are appropriately and safely prescribed, administered, monitored and reviewed by qualified health professionals, considering the clinical needs and informed decisions of the older person.

Medicines-related adverse events are monitored, reported and used to inform safety and quality improvement.



Using the AMS SAT

<p>Step 1: Complete the tool as a group</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaken by a group of healthcare professionals directly involved in AMS and quality and safety and include a range of people from different professional groups (e.g. nursing, operational, pharmacists, general practitioners).• Include as a periodic review annual activity by the committee with oversight of AMS in RACS or the service AMS team for approval by the committee.• Tip: <i>Electronic medication management systems and Quality Use of Medicine provider tools can support items on the SAT</i>
<p>Step 2: Gather existing evidence and undertake a gap analysis</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For questions that received a “yes” response, review the type and quality of evidence and determine if sufficient to justify the answer. Examples of reflection questions are provided in the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission’s Guidance and resources for providers to support Aged Care Quality Standards.• For questions that received a “no” response”, consider how this may translate to a gap in practice and identify risks and shortfalls. Review and update your plan for continuous improvement in response to identified risks and shortfalls.
<p>Step 3: Update the AMS program action plan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The AMS program action plan is a rolling document that details AMS priorities, and planned actions for improving AMS in the service.
<p>Step 4: Repeat the cycle periodically</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps 1 to 3 should be repeated periodically (e.g. annually) as part of the service’s program for AMS program continuous improvement.

Resource list

- Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. Guidance and resources for providers to support Aged Care Quality Standards.
7 <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/resources/guidance-and-resources-providers-support-aged-care-quality-standards>
- Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care. Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care
Chapters 2 (program), 3 (strategies and tools), 4 (Information technology support), 5 (clinician education), 6 (measuring program) performance and evaluation), 7 (involving consumers), 16 (AMS in community and residential age care)
7 <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/antimicrobial-stewardship-australian-health-care>
- Department of Health and Aged Care. Medication management in residential aged care facilities – Guiding Principles
7 <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/guiding-principles-for-medication-management-in-residential-aged-care-facilities?language=en>
- Department of Health and Aged Care. User Guide – Role of the Medication Advisory Committee.
7 <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/user-guide-role-of-a-medication-advisory-committee?language=en>
- Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care. Information for clinicians- Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard.
7 <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-care-standards/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard/info-clinicians#quality-statements>



The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

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