

Seven Days Antibiotics OK for HAP/ VAP, New Guidelines



New clinical practice guidelines from the [Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\)](#) and [American Thoracic Society \(ATS\)](#) advise shorter antibiotics courses for hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP) and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) - seven or fewer days of antibiotics, in a change from previous recommendations.

The guidelines recommend that hospitals develop an antibiogram, a regular analysis of the strains of bacteria causing pneumonia infections locally to ensure the optimal choice of antibiotics. The antibiogram should be specific to ICU patients and updated regularly, with the most appropriate frequency being determined by the hospital. The other differences with the 2005 guideline are the use of the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology for the evaluation of evidence and removal of the concept of healthcare-associated pneumonia (HCAP).

The guidelines are published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* and were developed by a multidisciplinary panel that included infectious diseases, pulmonary and critical care specialists.

See Also: [Closer Collaboration Between Nurses and Physicians May Minimise VAP Risk](#)

Andre C. Kalil, MD, MPH, lead author of the guidelines, professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the Transplant Infectious Diseases Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha in a [statement](#) said that once clinicians are regularly updated on the bacteria involved, and sensitivities to specific antibiotics, they can choose the most effective treatment.

"This helps individualise care, ensuring patients will be treated with the correct antibiotic as soon as possible," he added.

Source: [Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\)](#)

Image credits: IDSA (top); University of Nebraska Medical Center

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