

# ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP: ATTITUDES, PERCEPTIONS, AND PRACTICES OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN A PEDIATRIC TERTIARY HOSPITAL

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## Introduction

This study explores healthcare workers' (HCWs') attitudes, perceptions, and practices on Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) at the Philippine Children's Medical Center. Findings will guide policy improvements against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

## Methods

This cross-sectional study employed a validated online survey, with data reviewed and coded in Microsoft Excel and JASP 0.16.3

## Results

The study included 288 healthcare workers, predominantly female (77.35%) and aged 31-40 years (47.74%), with physicians being the largest professional group (57.14%). HCWs had positive attitudes toward AMS. They perceived moderate to high AMR levels in different contexts but believed the hospital had lower AMR levels than the country. HCWs agreed that AMR impacts antimicrobial choices, patient outcomes, and safety. Contributors to AMR were prescribing inappropriate antimicrobials, unnecessary prescriptions, poor patient adherence, and inadequate

## Results (continued)

infection control measures. HCWs, except medical technologists, were aware of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) and its interventions. Only nurses and pharmacists were aware of the hospital policies against AMR. Barriers to AMS implementation include inadequate training in antimicrobial use, lack of infectious disease/microbiology services, lack of electronic medication management services, and personnel shortages. HCWs had high self-reported AMS practices, but a practice gap in single-dose surgical antibiotic prophylaxis was identified, with low physician adherence (50.6%).

## Discussion

This study revealed positive attitudes and high self-reported AMS practices among HCWs. They also perceived moderate to high AMR in different contexts but believed that the hospital has lower AMR levels than the country. Addressing the identified barriers to implementation and practice gaps is crucial for achieving antimicrobial stewardship goals.

### KEYWORDS:

Antimicrobial stewardship, AMS, ASP,  
Healthcare workers, Pediatric

