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ASP in private sector: Sharing the experience and challenges

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Antibiotic stewardship programs (ASP) are of paramount importance in this era of increasing antibiotics resistance worldwide. There are examples of well-established ASP programs worldwide; mainly in teaching and tertiary public hospitals but seldom in small and medium sized private hospitals. Also, literature in this regard is scarce. This presentation highlights the importance of implementing ASP in general and particularly in private hospitals. The author will highlight the contribution of the private sector to health care in the UAE and in many countries worldwide. This contribution is large and still growing worldwide, thus making it very crucial to start such programs across private hospitals where most of the antibiotics abuse and misuse is happening due to many reasons. The author will share his experience at Prime Hospital—a medium sized 100 bed private

hospital in Dubai and efforts made towards implementation of the ASP program and the challenges which we encountered and still faced in trying to implement it; these challenges are different from the ones encountered in the public and teaching sector, with a special emphasis on the role of the IT and the hospital information system in the ASP. Many studies examined the relation between restricting certain classes of broad spectrum antibiotics and reducing the rates of ESBLs and MRSA. While, restriction of antibiotics and pre-authorization is an important component of the ASP, this is not applicable in a small or medium sized private hospital, particularly when ID specialists are not available. Hence, we have tailored the restriction to our needs as a private hospital, with promising results so far.

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