Original Article

Antimicrobial stewardship programs in adult intensive care units in Latin America: Implementation, assessments, and impact on outcomes

Rodolfo E. Quirós MD, PhD, Ana C. Bardossy MD, Patricia Angeleri MD, Jeannete Zurita MD, Washington R. Aleman Espinoza MD, Marcelo Carneiro MD PhD, Silvia Guerra RN, Julio Medina MD PhD, Ximena Castañeda Luquerna MD, Alexander Guerra MD, Silvio Vega MD, Luis E. Cuellar Ponce de Leon MD, José Munita MD, Elvio D. Escobar, Gina Maki MD, Tyler Prentiss BA and Marcus Zervos MD for the PROA-LATAM Project Group

Abstract

Objective: To assess the impact of antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) in adult medical-surgical intensive care units (MS-ICUs) in Latin America.

Design: Quasi-experimental prospective with continuous time series.

Setting: The study included 77 MS-ICUs in 9 Latin American countries.

Patients: Adult patients admitted to an MS-ICU for at least 24 hours were included in the study.

Methods: This multicenter study was conducted over 12 months. To evaluate the ASPs, representatives from all MS-ICUs performed a self-assessment survey (0–100 scale) at the beginning and end of the study. The impact of each ASP was evaluated monthly using the following measures: antimicrobial consumption, appropriateness of antimicrobial treatments, crude mortality, and multidrug-resistant microorganisms in healthcare-associated infections (MDRO-HAIs). Using final stewardship program quality self-assessment scores, MS-ICUs were stratified and compared among 3 groups: ≤25th percentile, >25th to ≤75th percentile, and >75th percentile.

Results: In total, 77 MS-ICU from 9 Latin American countries completed the study. Twenty MS-ICUs reached at least the 75th percentile at the end of the study in comparison with the same number who remain within the 25th percentile (score, 76.1±7.5 vs 28.0±7.3; P<.0001). Several indicators performed better in the MS-ICUs in the 75th versus 25th percentiles: antimicrobial consumption (143.4 vs 159.4 DDD per 100 patient days; P<.0001), adherence to clinical guidelines (92.5% vs 59.3%; P<.0001), validation of prescription by pharmacist (72.0% vs 58.0%; P<.0001), crude mortality (15.9% vs 17.7%; P<.0001), and MDRO-HAIs (9.45 vs 10.96 cases per 1,000 patient days; P=.004).

Conclusion: MS-ICUs with more comprehensive ASPs showed significant improvement in antimicrobial utilization.

(Received 28 August 2020; accepted 18 February 2021)

The introduction of antimicrobials has transformed medical practice converting previously fatal infections into treatable diseases. Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials comprise a significant cause of emerging antimicrobial resistance (AMR).1 Although early and appropriate treatment has been shown to reduce mortality2 in patients with severe sepsis or septic shock, 20%–50% of antimicrobials prescribed in US hospitals are inappropriate or unnecessary.3,5 Furthermore, antimicrobial exposure increases the risk of adverse events, drug interactions, superinfections, and the development of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), fungal infections, Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI), as well as healthcare costs.6–9

Author for correspondence: Rodolfo Ernesto Quirós. E-mail: quiros.re@gmail.com.

Cite this article: Quirós RE, et al. (2021). Antimicrobial stewardship programs in adult intensive care units in Latin America: Implementation, assessments, and impact on outcomes. Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology, https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2021.80

© The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
Inappropriate use of antimicrobials has a negative impact not only on the patient but also on the broader patient population through increased rates of MDROs.\textsuperscript{10}

Estimates indicate that >700,000 deaths occur worldwide each year from AMR, and this number is projected to reach 10 million in 2050.\textsuperscript{11} The financial costs associated with treating these infections reach many billions of dollars.\textsuperscript{1,2} The effective implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) has allowed a cost-effective reduction in antimicrobial consumption, increasing patient safety and reducing AMR.\textsuperscript{13,14} The implementation of strategies for appropriate use of antimicrobials is a cornerstone in reducing emergence and transmission of MDROs. Multiple guidelines have been published, proposing a framework to combat AMR based on the development of robust infection control programs, therapeutic committees, guidelines on antimicrobial management, and monitoring and feedback of prescription patterns.\textsuperscript{15–18} This framework contributed to the development of ASPs, which focus on pre-preservation authorization and post-prescription review and feedback, which have succeeded at curbing resistance, decreasing costs, and decreasing rates of CDI in US hospitals.\textsuperscript{19–21} However, hospitals located in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have different sets of challenges.\textsuperscript{22,23} Stories of modest success have been reported around the world, but robust data are lacking,\textsuperscript{24} and data on AMR and ASPs in Latin America are especially scarce.

In this study, we aimed to implement ASPs in adult medical-surgical intensive care units (MS-ICUs) from Latin American countries and to assess impact on appropriateness of antimicrobial prescriptions, antimicrobial use, crude mortality, MDRO in healthcare-associated infections (MDRO-HAIs) and \textit{Clostridioides difficile} infections (CDIs). We hypothesized that MS-ICUs with higher scores in the final self-assessment would show improved indicators of appropriate antimicrobial use and improved patient outcomes.

**Methods**

**Study design**

The study included a network of hospitals recruited from 9 Latin American countries. A nonrandom sample of 84 MS-ICUs from tertiary-care hospitals in Latin America were invited by infectious disease leaders from each country to voluntarily participate in the project. We included facilities with an ASP team composed of an infectious disease (ID) physician, a clinical pharmacist, and a microbiologist. All study data were deidentified, and patient consent was waived. Ethics approvals varied by country and were obtained by participating hospitals on an individual basis. A central ethics committee was enlisted at the coordinating center, the Global Health Initiative at Henry Ford Health System, Michigan. A data privacy document was made available for each participating hospital.

The study was built using methodology from a prior study.\textsuperscript{25} The study was conducted over a 24-month period with a 6-month preintervention period, a 12-month intervention period, and a 6-month postintervention study period.

During the preintervention period, the members of the ASP teams were trained through an online course. During this period, each center completed a baseline self-assessment of their ASP through a previously validated instrument (Supplementary Material 1 online).\textsuperscript{25}

During the 12-month intervention period and based on the results of the baseline self-assessment, each center implemented locally salient antimicrobial stewardship strategies in MS-ICUs as part of the ASP. During this period, monthly surveys were performed to measure the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescription, antimicrobial consumption, mortality, and incidence of MDRO-HAIs. The implementations of respective IPC strategies were registered monthly. At month 6 during the intervention period, an interim self-assessment using the same instrument was performed to respectively determine which ASP strategies had been implemented.

During the postintervention period, a final self-assessment was performed to summarize the level of development achieved by the ASP at each MS-ICU.

**Data collection**

All data were entered into a secured online database through a central website developed for this study. A help desk and supplementary documents were available there. The platform included the online training course, participating center characteristics, and standardized collection of study information. Data validation included several integrated verifications with error and warning messages to avoid duplicated and erroneous data entry and missing information. The system created monthly indicators and graphics comparing data from all participating MS-ICUs. Each investigator could monitor their own indicators in comparison with the rest of centers.

The following variables were collected from each participating hospital for analysis and comparison: affiliation type (public or private, teaching or nonteaching), number of MS-ICU beds, full-time equivalent for ASP team members, and the presence of an IPC committee and/or a pharmacy committee.

The instrument used to evaluate the ASPs was based on the CDC Core Elements checklist\textsuperscript{26} and contained a total of 74 indicators, grouped into 33 standards, 15 components, and 4 domains (Supplementary Material 1 online). We evaluated the following domains: (1) leadership and coordination, (2) institutional intervention strategies, (3) monitoring, and (4) education. Partial scores for each domain and a global score were developed. The results of the self-assessment of ASPs were finalized on a scale from 0 to 100 points to allow institutional comparisons. The means of the self-assessment score were grouped by percentiles (≤25th, >25th to <75th, and ≥75th) for comparisons among the MS-ICUs.

A standardized surveillance methodology was used to collect data from antimicrobial prescriptions.\textsuperscript{25,27} Monthly 1-day prevalence surveys, including all inpatients who were in an MS-ICU at 8:00 A.M. and who received at least 1 systemic antimicrobial, were collected. Survey information included characteristics of the patient (ie, age, gender, weight) and the antimicrobial prescription (ie, therapeutic indication, unit dose, number of daily doses, administration route, pharmacist validation, dose adjustments, and therapeutic drug monitoring). Prescriptions were categorized as treatment for community-acquired infections (CAIs), treatment for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), medical prophylaxis, or surgical prophylaxis. Whether treatment was empirical or targeted was also recorded.

We analyzed the following indicators of appropriateness of the antimicrobial prescriptions: surgical prophylaxis <24 hours, validation of prescription by pharmacists, justification of prescription in the medical record, compliance with clinical guidelines, prospective audit and feedback, acceptance of ID physician recommendation, aminoglycosides in a 1-day dose, no redundant anaerobic therapy, de-escalation of therapy performed, and switch from intravenous to oral route.
Antimicrobial consumption was measured in defined daily doses per 100 patient days (DDD per 100 PD) per month for systemic antibacterials and antifungals (categories J01 and J02 from the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system).28,29 To determine the impacts of the respective ASPs, monthly CDI, MDRO-HAIs, and all-cause mortality in the MS-ICU were registered. Additionally, the respective implementations of the following IPC strategies were registered: hand hygiene program, periodic surveillance of MDRO-HAIs, policies for contact precautions and environmental cleaning, daily chlorhexidine bathing, surveillance, and bundles addressing device-associated infections.

Statistical analysis

The results of the self-assessment are shown as mean ± SD. The paired Student t test was used to compare the initial and final scores, and the Student t test was used to compare MS-ICUs. To identify institutional characteristics associated with the level of the ASP, a bivariate analysis was conducted using the final self-assessment score as the outcome. Statistically associated variables (P < .10) were introduced into a stepwise multiple linear regression model, and only those that were significantly associated (P < .05) remained in the model.

Indicators for appropriateness of antimicrobial prescriptions were presented as percentage of total prescriptions complying with each indicator. Overall, crude mortality was expressed as monthly death in the MS-ICU per 100 discharges. Cumulative compliance of IPC strategies was calculated as percentage of the 12 months each strategy was implemented. These variables were compared using the χ² statistic, and results are expressed as differences of the percentages and their respective 95% CIs.

The total DDD per 100 PD of targeted antimicrobials, MDRO-HAIs, and CDIs at the different MS-ICUs were compared as incidence densities using the Poisson test.

A P value < .05 (2-tailed) was considered statistically significant. For statistical analyses, we used SPSS version 22 software (IBM, Chicago, IL).

Results

Of the 84 MS-ICUs that initially agreed to participate in the project, 77 (91.7%) completed the study and 7 (8.3%) dropped out. Of the participating sites, 45 were from Argentina, 6 were from Ecuador, 5 were from Colombia, 5 were from Uruguay, 5 were from Brazil, 3 were from Chile, 3 were from Peru, 3 were from Panama, and 2 were from Bolivia. Overall, 233 members of ASP teams completed the online training course.

Self-assessment

The global scores of the initial and final self-assessments were 40.7 ± 17.3 and 52.1 ± 19.2, respectively (difference, 11.3; 95% CI, 8.1 to 14.6; P < .0001), and all 4 domains showed a significant improvement over the course of the study (Table 1).

The following components showed significant improvement in the final self-assessments: institutional support, staff commitment from other key departments, information technology assistance, institutional policies, interventions to optimize antimicrobial use, monitoring of antimicrobial use, appropriateness, impact indicators, and education and training for prescribers and for patients and relatives (Table 1).

Only Argentina, Colombia, Panama, and Uruguay showed a significant improvement in the global scores per country when the initial and final self-assessments were compared (Table 2).

The following institutional characteristics associated with a higher global score in the final self-assessment in the bivariate analysis: private versus public institution (56.2 vs 47.6; P = .048); at least 15 beds in the MS-ICU (58.7 vs 48.5; P = .024); full-time infection preventionist (53.1 vs 25.9; P = .015); at least 6 meetings per year of the IPC committee (55.4 vs 43.1; P = .011); and at least 6 meetings per year of the pharmacy committee (58.9 vs 47.4; P = .009). In the stepwise multiple linear regression, only facilities with at least 15 beds at the MS-ICU and at least 6 meetings per year of the pharmacy committee showed an independent significant statistical association (P = .042 and P = .015, respectively).

When institutions were stratified into 3 groups according to the global score of the final self-assessment (ie, ≤25th, >25th to ≤75th, >75th percentiles), only those centers in the >25th to ≤75th percentile and >75th percentile groups showed a significant improvement in their ASPs when the final and initial self-assessments were compared (52.1 vs 38.1 and 76.1 vs 59.2, respectively; both P < .0001). Centers within the 25th percentile did not show significant improvement in their ASPs (28.0 vs 27.1; P = .7077).

Antimicrobial prescriptions, antimicrobial consumption, and appropriateness indicators

Data from the point-prevalence surveys showed that of 10,058 MS-ICU inpatients, 6,019 inpatients (59.8%) received 10,523 antimicrobial prescriptions (1.75 antimicrobial per patient on antimicrobial treatment). Of these 10,523 prescriptions, 5,194 (49.4%) corresponded to HAIs treatment; 2,992 (28.4%) for CAIs; 590 (5.6%) surgical prophylaxis; 458 (4.4%) for medical prophylaxis; and 1,289 (12.2%) for indications not classified. Targeted treatments were significantly more common for HAIs than for CAIs (43.9% vs 25.1%; P < .0001).

Among all antibiotics prescribed for CAIs, the following were most frequently prescribed: 663 prescriptions (28.9%) were for penicillins with a β-lactamase inhibitor, 202 (8.8%) were for meropenem, 199 (8.7%) were for vancomycin, and 184 (8.0%) were for a third-generation cephalosporin (Fig. 1). Among the prescriptions for piperacillin with a β-lactamase inhibitor, 314 prescriptions (13.7%) were for piperacillin with a β-lactamase inhibitor and 312 (13.6%) were for amoxicillin with a β-lactamase inhibitor. The following antibiotics were most commonly prescribed for HAIs: 1,242 prescriptions (23.9%) were for carbapenems, 840 (16.2%) were for glycopeptides, 758 (14.6%) were for penicillins with a β-lactamase inhibitor, and 597 (11.5%) were for polymyxins (Fig. 1).

Among the 426 systemic antifungal prescriptions, triazole drugs were the most frequently prescribed: 55 of 87 CAIs (2.4% of total prescriptions) and 177 of 339 HAIs (3.4% of total prescriptions) (Fig. 1).

Throughout the 12-month study period, 464,770 DDDs were consumed throughout 304,700 patient days in MS-ICUs (152.5 DDD per 100 PD). The following antimicrobial groups were most frequently consumed: penicillins with a β-lactamase inhibitor (34.0 DDD per 100 PD), followed by carbapenems (30.4 DDD per 100 PD), glycopeptides (13.2 DDD per 100 PD), and polymyxins (9.7 DDD per 100 PD).

The frequency distribution of antimicrobial consumption between MS-ICUs stratified by the final self-assessment into the 3 percentile groups are shown in Figure 2. Consumption of penicillin with a β-lactamase inhibitor, carbapenem, glycopeptide, third-generation cephalosporin, and aminoglycosides were lower in MS-ICUs in the ≥75th percentile.

The percentage of patients receiving at least 1 antimicrobial and the number of antimicrobials per patient on antimicrobial...
| Domains/Components                          | Initial Percentiles | Mean ± SD | 10th | 25th | 50th | 75th | 90th | Final Percentiles | Mean ± SD | 10th | 25th | 50th | 75th | 90th | Difference of Means | 95% CI        | P Value |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Leadership and coordination                | 56.5 ± 21.2        | 30.0      | 41.2 | 57.6 | 69.8 | 85.6 |      | 62.7 ± 21.2      | 36.6      | 45.2 | 63.8 | 83.1 | 92.0 |      | 6.2                 | 1.8 to 10.5    | .006    |
| Institutional support                      | 38.3 ± 28.5        | 0.0       | 16.7 | 33.3 | 66.7 | 73.3 |      | 48.1 ± 31.4      | 0.0       | 16.7 | 50.0 | 66.7 | 100.0 |      | 9.7                 | 3.4 to 16.1    | .003    |
| Accountability                             | 62.3 ± 30.2        | 25.0      | 50.0 | 50.0 | 100.0| 100.0|      | 69.5 ± 27.7      | 25.0      | 50.0 | 75.0 | 100.0| 100.0|      | 7.1                 | −0.3 to 14.6   | .060    |
| Staff commitment from other key departments| 55.6 ± 25.4        | 30.0      | 40.0 | 50.0 | 80.0 | 90.0 |      | 62.7 ± 25.4      | 30.0      | 40.0 | 60.0 | 90.0 | 100.0|      | 7.1                 | 0.8 to 13.5    | .028    |
| Information technology assistance          | 70.1 ± 29.2        | 26.7      | 66.7 | 83.3 | 83.3 | 100.0|      | 77.1 ± 27.2      | 33.3      | 66.7 | 83.3 | 100.0| 100.0|      | 6.9                 | 0.8 to 13.2    | .026    |
| Integration with other institutional committees | 50.6 ± 32.8        | 0.0       | 33.3 | 50.0 | 83.3 | 100.0|      | 55.6 ± 31.9      | 16.7      | 33.3 | 50.0 | 83.3 | 100.0|      | 5.0                 | −1.2 to 11.2   | .110    |
| Integration with other institutional programs | 56.5 ± 32.5        | 0.0       | 25.0 | 50.0 | 75.0 | 100.0|      | 61.0 ± 31.8      | 25.0      | 50.0 | 50.0 | 100.0| 100.0|      | 4.5                 | −1.0 to 10.1   | .109    |
| Scope of the ASP                           | 61.9 ± 29.7        | 25.0      | 37.5 | 62.5 | 87.5 | 100.0|      | 64.8 ± 27.9      | 25.0      | 50.0 | 62.5 | 87.5 | 100.0|      | 2.9                 | −3.6 to 9.4    | .374    |
| Institutional intervention strategies      | 45.6 ± 21.3        | 21.4      | 29.5 | 42.5 | 61.3 | 74.2 |      | 59.8 ± 21.4      | 32.5      | 44.7 | 58.8 | 77.1 | 87.3 |      | 14.2                | 10.0 to 18.3   | .000    |
| Institutional policies                     | 47.1 ± 29.6        | 10.0      | 19.2 | 46.2 | 65.4 | 93.9 |      | 65.3 ± 26.8      | 38.5      | 46.2 | 61.5 | 92.3 | 100.0|      | 18.3                | 12.8 to 23.8   | .000    |
| Interventions to optimize antimicrobial use | 44.2 ± 23.0        | 16.7      | 27.8 | 44.4 | 61.1 | 77.8 |      | 54.2 ± 23.4      | 22.2      | 33.3 | 55.6 | 72.2 | 83.3 |      | 10.0                | 5.5 to 14.6    | .000    |
| Monitoring                                 | 42.0 ± 21.6        | 14.6      | 24.3 | 39.6 | 58.3 | 70.2 |      | 55.6 ± 21.7      | 23.8      | 42.4 | 54.9 | 70.8 | 84.8 |      | 13.7                | 9.7 to 17.6    | .000    |
| Antimicrobial use indicators                | 28.6 ± 26.5        | 0.0       | 0.0  | 25.0 | 50.0 | 67.5 |      | 42.2 ± 29.1      | 0.0       | 25.0 | 50.0 | 62.5 | 80.0 |      | 13.6                | 8.5 to 18.8    | .000    |
| Appropriateness indicators                 | 28.3 ± 25.0        | 0.0       | 8.3  | 16.7 | 50.0 | 66.7 |      | 39.0 ± 28.4      | 8.3       | 16.7 | 33.3 | 58.3 | 78.3 |      | 10.6                | 4.9 to 16.3    | .000    |
| Impact indicators                          | 63.1 ± 32.5        | 22.2      | 33.3 | 61.1 | 94.4 | 100.0|      | 79.1 ± 25.1      | 50.0      | 61.1 | 88.9 | 100.0| 100.0|      | 16.0                | 9.2 to 22.7    | .000    |
| Institutional reporting                    | 47.9 ± 27.2        | 12.5      | 25.0 | 50.0 | 62.5 | 80.0 |      | 62.3 ± 29.4      | 12.5      | 50.0 | 62.5 | 87.5 | 100.0|      | 14.4                | 8.1 to 20.8    | .000    |
| Education                                 | 18.8 ± 17.2        | 0.0       | 0.0  | 15.0 | 30.0 | 40.0 |      | 30.1 ± 25.8      | 0.0       | 5.0  | 25.0 | 50.0 | 62.0 |      | 11.4                | 6.1 to 16.6    | .000    |
| Education and training to prescribers      | 31.0 ± 27.0        | 0.0       | 0.0  | 30.0 | 40.0 | 80.0 |      | 44.0 ± 33.7      | 0.0       | 10.0 | 50.0 | 70.0 | 90.0 |      | 13.0                | 6.3 to 19.7    | .000    |
| Education to patient and relatives         | 6.5 ± 16.9         | 0.0       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 50.0 |      | 16.2 ± 24.3      | 0.0       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 50.0 | 50.0 |      | 9.7                 | 3.4 to 16.1    | .003    |
| Global score                              | 40.7 ± 17.3        | 20.1      | 29.0 | 38.5 | 54.3 | 66.2 |      | 52.1 ± 19.2      | 27.3      | 38.0 | 52.4 | 66.6 | 77.5 |      | 11.3                | 8.1 to 14.6    | .000    |

Note. SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval; ASP, antimicrobial stewardship program.
treatment were significantly lower in the MS-ICUs that reached the ≥75th percentile in comparison with those that remained within the 25th percentile at the final self-assessment (Table 3). The MS-ICUs that reached the ≥75th percentile had a significantly lower total antimicrobial consumption than those that remained in the 25th percentile (143.4 vs 159.4 DDD per 100 PD; \( P < .0001 \)) (Table 3).

The following appropriateness indicators performed better among MS-ICUs that reached the ≥75th percentile: validation of prescription by pharmacist, justification of prescription in the medical record, compliance with clinical guidelines, prospective audit with feedback, acceptance of ID physician recommendation, no redundant anabiotic therapy, de-escalation, and targeted treatments (Table 3). Surgical prophylaxis of <24 hours, therapeutic monitoring of vancomycin, aminoglycosides on 1-day dose, and switches from the intravenous to oral route did not show statistical difference.

**Impact indicators**

The cumulative impact indicators during the 12 months of the study showed that crude mortality and MDRO-HAIIs were significantly lower in MS-ICUs in the ≥75th percentile than those in the 25th percentile. Only CDI was significantly higher in MS-ICUs in ≥75th percentile than those in the 25th percentile (Table 3).

**IPC strategies**

MS-ICUs in the ≥75th percentile showed a significant higher frequency of IPC strategies implemented than those units within the 25th percentile (Table 4).

**Discussion**

This is the first multicenter study in Latin American MS-ICUs to evaluate antimicrobial prescription appropriateness, consumption and impact indicators in relation to the level of ASP development. Overall, 76.6% of the centers showed a significant improvement in their ASP scores. However, only 26.0% reached the 75th percentile in the final self-assessment, and 23.4% centers did not improve their global scores along the study.

The domain “leadership and coordination” scored highest at the final self-assessment, followed by “intervention strategies” and “monitoring.” “Education” was the domain with the lowest score. The latter represents an opportunity to develop and implement new strategies to improve education and training to prescribers and to patient and relatives. These findings are consistent with a previous study analyzing 4,184 US acute-care hospitals through the 2014 National Healthcare Safety Network Annual Hospital Survey, which reported that only 39.2% of institutions have an ASP meeting all 7 core elements.25 In addition, written support or salary funding were significantly associated with having a comprehensive ASP.26 In a cross-sectional study including 103 hospitals in Central and South America, the lack of hospital administration, lack of information technology support, and opposition from prescribers were stated as main barriers to the development of ASPs.27 More recently, in a survey conducted in 27 Latin American hospitals, 40.7% of respondent hospitals did not have a written statement supporting an ASP, and 51.9% reported no financial support for ASP practices. In addition, only 26% of laboratories agreed to perform testing for MDROs, and only 40.7% of hospitals included education to prescribers on improving antibiotic use.32

Our findings confirm that ASPs are often only partially implemented in Latin American hospitals. This issue represents a very important challenge because institutional support, interventions to optimizing antibiotic use, monitoring and reporting processes, as well as physician education, are necessary to implement an ASP effectively.14

The feasibility of doing a prevalence survey has been demonstrated in previous studies.25,27 This methodology has allowed hospitals in LMICs to assess antibiotic prescribing patterns and to collect information about antibiotic resistance for the first time. In that sense, measurement of appropriateness of antimicrobial prescription is essential for monitoring and reporting ASPs.

We observed lower antimicrobial resistance in the higher percentile group, and this finding could be related to lower consumption of antibiotics in the MS-ICUs that have a more comprehensive ASP. As in a previous study, we found that targeted treatments were more common for HAIIs than CAIs.27 In addition, we observed a high rate of empiric use of carbapenems and vancomycin and a low rate of de-escalation. High rates of extended-spectrum \( \beta \) lactamase, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, and carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* infections are leading to increased use of carbapenems, vancomycin, and

---

**Table 2.** Comparison of Global Scores per Country Between Initial and Final Self-Assessment

| Country | No. of MS-ICUs | Mean±SD Initial | Mean±SD Final | Difference of Means | 95% CI | \( P \) Value |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| Argentina | 45 | 42.1±15.9 | 50.6±15.7 | 8.5 | 4.7 to 12.2 | .000 |
| Bolivia | 2 | 45.1±31.7 | 70.5±9.6 | 25.5 | ... | .351 |
| Brazil | 5 | 61.0±15.3 | 67.8±21.6 | 6.9 | -9.6 to 23.3 | .311 |
| Chile | 3 | 26.3±10.1 | 26.9±10.7 | 0.6 | -0.9 to 2.1 | .245 |
| Colombia | 5 | 52.2±11.8 | 77.3±13.7 | 25.0 | 0.9 to 49.2 | .045 |
| Ecuador | 6 | 37.0±11.6 | 55.4±23.7 | 18.4 | -0.8 to 37.7 | .057 |
| Panama | 3 | 45.0±10.4 | 44.6±5.2 | 11.5 | 0.4 to 22.6 | .047 |
| Peru | 3 | 23.6±9.2 | 23.0±3.4 | 17.5 | -54.7 to 89.7 | .407 |
| Uruguay | 5 | 15.1±7.2 | 26.9±27.9 | 16.6 | 13.3 to 19.9 | .000 |

Note. MS-ICU, medical-surgical intensive care unit; SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval.
Fig. 1. Proportion of antimicrobials prescribed for systemic use in community-acquired (n=2292) and healthcare-associated (n=5194) infections among adult patients in medical-surgical ICU.

Fig. 2. Annual use of systemic antimicrobials in adult patients in medical-surgical ICU (MS-ICU) expressed as defined daily doses (DDDs) per 100 patient-days stratified by the global score of the final self-assessment.
polymyxins.27,33–35 These findings represent an opportunity to promote new and rapid diagnostic tests to improve empiric treatments.36

In our study, MS-ICUs that reached the 75th percentile showed improvements in antimicrobial prescription appropriateness, antimicrobial consumption, and impact indicators compared to those that remained within the 25th percentile. Only CDI rates were significantly higher at MS-ICUs above the 75th percentile, likely related to better detection, as well as other risk factors such as consumption of proton pump inhibitors, which were not evaluated in this study.37 In addition, higher compliance with IPC strategies was associated with ASPs that are more comprehensive.

This study has several limitations. Participation was voluntary, which may have biased participation to hospitals with an interest in antibiotic stewardship. The restriction of the study to MS-ICUs may limit the generalizability of the results, and overrepresentation of Argentinean hospitals may limit more generalizable conclusions. The strengths of the project include the prospective study design, findings of improved antibiotic use, better outcomes, and description of a model that is practical for the LMIC setting.

Based on previous experience, we limited our project to adult inpatients admitted to MS-ICUs. We restricted the study to adult patients because of difficulties in performing data collection using days of therapy as the measure of antimicrobial consumption in many Latin American institutions. Although, DDD is a useful indicator in the adult population, it is not useful for pediatric patients.25,29 Another reason to constrain the study to MS-ICUs was to enhance feasibility and sustainability because a limited number of human resources are involved in development, implementation, and monitoring ASPs in many hospitals located in low- and middle- and lower-income countries.31 In addition, AMR and the challenges of appropriateness of antimicrobial use are more frequent in ICUs than in general wards.37,38

In summary, our results suggest that MS-ICUs with ASPs with higher global scores in the final self-assessment showed improved appropriateness and impact indicators and lower antimicrobial consumption of proton pump inhibitors, which were not evaluated in this study.37 In addition, higher compliance with IPC strategies was associated with ASPs that are more comprehensive.

This study has several limitations. Participation was voluntary, which may have biased participation to hospitals with an interest in antibiotic stewardship. The restriction of the study to MS-ICU may limit the generalizability of the results, and overrepresentation of Argentinean hospitals may limit more generalizable conclusions. The strengths of the project include the prospective study design, findings of improved antibiotic use, better outcomes, and description of a model that is practical for the LMIC setting.

Based on previous experience, we limited our project to adult inpatients admitted to MS-ICUs. We restricted the study to adult patients because of difficulties in performing data collection using days of therapy as the measure of antimicrobial consumption in many Latin American institutions. Although, DDD is a useful indicator in the adult population, it is not useful for pediatric patients.25,29 Another reason to constrain the study to MS-ICUs was to enhance feasibility and sustainability because a limited number of human resources are involved in development, implementation, and monitoring ASPs in many hospitals located in low- and middle- and lower-income countries.31 In addition, AMR and the challenges of appropriateness of antimicrobial use are more frequent in ICUs than in general wards.37,38

In summary, our results suggest that MS-ICUs with ASPs with higher global scores in the final self-assessment showed improved appropriateness and impact indicators and lower antimicrobial consumption of proton pump inhibitors, which were not evaluated in this study.37 In addition, higher compliance with IPC strategies was associated with ASPs that are more comprehensive.

This study has several limitations. Participation was voluntary, which may have biased participation to hospitals with an interest in antibiotic stewardship. The restriction of the study to MS-ICU may limit the generalizability of the results, and overrepresentation of Argentinean hospitals may limit more generalizable conclusions. The strengths of the project include the prospective study design, findings of improved antibiotic use, better outcomes, and description of a model that is practical for the LMIC setting.

Based on previous experience, we limited our project to adult inpatients admitted to MS-ICUs. We restricted the study to adult patients because of difficulties in performing data collection using days of therapy as the measure of antimicrobial consumption in many Latin American institutions. Although, DDD is a useful indicator in the adult population, it is not useful for pediatric patients.25,29 Another reason to constrain the study to MS-ICUs was to enhance feasibility and sustainability because a limited number of human resources are involved in development, implementation, and monitoring ASPs in many hospitals located in low- and middle- and lower-income countries.31 In addition, AMR and the challenges of appropriateness of antimicrobial use are more frequent in ICUs than in general wards.37,38

In summary, our results suggest that MS-ICUs with ASPs with higher global scores in the final self-assessment showed improved appropriateness and impact indicators and lower antimicrobial consumption of proton pump inhibitors, which were not evaluated in this study.37 In addition, higher compliance with IPC strategies was associated with ASPs that are more comprehensive.
consumption than those with lower scores. MS-ICUs with more comprehensive ASPs showed significant improvement in antimicrobial utilization.

**Acknowledgments.** The coordinators of PROA-LATAM Project would like to thank all healthcare personal from MS-ICUs who were involved the study.

**Financial support.** This work was funded by Merck and Co. The study funder had no role in the study design or data collection, analysis, or interpretation.

**Conflicts of interest.** M.Z. has received grant support unrelated to this work from Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, and Merck and as a consultant for Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson. and Merck and as a consultant for Merck. No other authors have financial disclosures. All other authors report having no role in the study design or data collection, analysis, or interpretation.

**PROA-LATAM Project Group.** Paula Bernachea, Alejandro Arias (Clínica Conciencia, Neuquen, Argentina); Graciela Beatriz Sosa, Maria Luz Sosa (Clínica Privada Reina Fabiola, Cordoba, Argentina); Emilia Silvia Cohen, Laura Deagular, Agustina Franchi (Higa Eva Peron, San Martin, Argentina); Marisa Liliana Bernan, Maria Eugenia Russo, Josefa SAintout (Higa San Roque, La Plata, Argentina); Valeria Stradella, Lucy Anchiaraico Galarza, Vanesa Kaneshiro (Hospital Aeronautico Cordoba, Cordoba, Argentina); Angelina Solledad Firpo, Julietta Milagros Buzo (Hospital Alberto Caccavo, Coronel Suarez, Argentina); Cecilía Ezcurra, Sergio Ciotti, Liliana Fernandez Caniglia (Hospital Alemán, CABA, Argentina); Gustavo Costilla Campero, Silvia Vera Amate Perez (Hospital Angel Padilla, Tucuman, Argentina); Viviana Novarese, Jamena Ballardares, Analia Paula Boschi (Hospital Carlos Macia, Mar de Ajó, Argentina); Alejandra Viteri (Hospital Cesar Milstein, CABA, Argentina); Luz Maria Olivo, Sara Maria Amani, Juan Gonzalo Tomas (Hospital de Clinicas President Nicolás Avellaneda, Tucuman, Argentina); Alejandra Cueller, Carolina Cabral, Carina Vanessa Chirino (Hospital de Villa Mercedes, Villa Mercedes, Argentina); Claudio Amadio, Paola Avondet, Noelia Sofia Linero (Hospital Del Carmen, Godoy Cruz, Argentina); Silvina Villamandos, Mariana Paula Ballestero, Gabriel Isac Podkowa (Hospital Dr. Ramón Madariaga, Posadas, Argentina); Sandra Lambert, Mariabel Comas, Luciana Patricia Gonzalez (Hospital El Cruce, Florencio Varela, Argentina); Amelia Lucrecia Sosa (Hospital Escuela Gral San Martin, Corrientes, Argentina); Martin Hojman, Luisa Russel, Marta Torres (Hospital General de Agudos “Bernardino Rivadavia,” CABA, Argentina); Sabrina Penco (Hospital Guillermo Rawson, Cordoba, Argentina); Laura Barcan, Corina Nemirovska, Maria Inés Staneloni (Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, CABA, Argentina); Romina Bertuzzi, Cecilia Garelli, Maria Ines Jean Charles (Hospital Italiano de Cordoba, Cordoba, Argentina); Juan Ignacio Dasas, Cynthia Rivero, Andrea Vila (Hospital Italiano de Mendoza, Guaymallén, Argentina); Rosa Contreras, Laura Gil, Vanesa Yamila Sanchez (Hospital Marcial Quiroga, Capital, Argentina); Diego Marcelo Maurizi, Luzi Lampioni Tappati, Adolfo Quispe Jaime (Hospital Municipal de Agudos Dr Leonidas Lucero, Bahia Blanca, Argentina); Luzia Esther Daciuk, Fernandez Adolfo, Diego Alejandro Laplume (Hospital Nacional Prof. Alejandro Posadas, Ramos Mejia, Argentina); Mariana Rodriguez Raimondo (Hospital Néstor Kirchner, San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina); Emilia Silvia Cohen (Hospital Privado Modelo, Vicente Lopez, Argentina); Maria Isabel Garzon (Hospital Privado Universitario de Cordoba, Cordoba, Argentina); Marcela Vera Blanco, Leandro Fellonri (Hospital Provincial de Rosario, Rosario, Argentina); Viviana Carballo (Hospital Rafael Angel Ferreyra, Cordoba, Argentina); Adriana Manzur, Gabriela Rodriguez (Hospital Rawson, San Juan, Argentina); Leandro Gastón Ballatore, Natalia Mongeles, Luzia Villa (Hospital Regional de Ushuaia, Ushuaia, Argentina); Sandra Cappello, Defina Platini (Hospital Sanco Jaime Ferre, Rafaela, Argentina); Milton Decima (Hospital Señor del Milagro, Salta, Argentina); Maria Laura Pereyra Acuña, Wanda Comstein, Agustina Malvicini (Hospital Universitario Austral, Pilar, Argentina); Carolina Osuna (Hospital Zonal de Agudos “A. Eurnekian” Ezeiza, Ezeiza, Argentina); Lucrecia Soler Puy, Emilce Adriana Alarcon, Maria Cecilia Ramirez (Instituto de Cardiología de Corrientes Juan Francisca Ceval, Corrientes, Argentina); Yanina Nuccetelli (Instituto de Diagnostico, La Plata, Argentina); Maria Alejandra Urueña (Maternidad Nuestra Serie B de Las del Parto, Ezeiza, Ezeiza, Argentina); M. Z. has received grant support unrelated to this work from Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, and Merck and as a consultant for Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson. and Merck. No other authors have financial disclosures. All other authors report having no role in the study design or data collection, analysis, or interpretation.

**Table 4. Infection Prevention and Control Strategies Implemented at MS-ICUs Stratified by the Global Score of the Final Self-Assessment**

| Indicators* | Final Percentile Group, % | Comparison Between the ≥75th vs ≤25th Percentiles |  |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---|
|             | (n=20) | (n=37) | Difference, % | 95% CI | P Value |
| Hand hygiene program | 82.9 | 95.0 | 100.0 | 17.1 | 12.3 to 21.8 | .000 |
| Surveillance of hand hygiene adherence | 68.8 | 69.9 | 88.8 | 19.9 | 12.3 to 27.5 | .000 |
| Surveillance of MDRO-HAI | 61.7 | 82.0 | 88.3 | 26.7 | 19.3 to 34.0 | .000 |
| Policy for contact precautions | 97.1 | 99.3 | 100.0 | 2.9 | 0.8 to 5.1 | .022 |
| Contact precautions for CRE | 98.7 | 98.0 | 100.0 | 1.3 | −0.1 to 2.7 | .236 |
| Contact precautions for CDI | 92.7 | 83.9 | 96.3 | 3.5 | −0.6 to 7.7 | .136 |
| Policy for environmental cleaning | 93.3 | 98.0 | 100.0 | 6.7 | 3.5 to 9.8 | .000 |
| Measurement of environmental cleaning effectiveness | 34.4 | 62.8 | 68.8 | 34.4 | 25.8 to 42.9 | .000 |
| Policy for daily chlorhexidine bathing | 83.3 | 89.9 | 95.4 | 12.1 | 6.7 to 17.5 | .000 |
| Use of cloths impregnated with chlorhexidine for daily bathing | 55.0 | 74.2 | 76.9 | 21.9 | 13.1 to 30.7 | .000 |
| Bundle for CLABSI | 67.5 | 75.9 | 95.0 | 27.5 | 21.0 to 34.0 | .000 |
| Bundle for CAUTI | 81.5 | 89.9 | 100.0 | 18.5 | 12.5 to 24.5 | .000 |
| Bundle for VAP | 65.8 | 72.1 | 91.3 | 25.4 | 18.4 to 32.4 | .000 |
| Surveillance of VAP | 68.6 | 90.6 | 98.6 | 17.0 | 10.8 to 23.2 | .000 |
| Surveillance of hand hygiene adherence | 68.8 | 69.9 | 88.8 | 19.9 | 12.3 to 27.5 | .000 |

Note: MS-ICU, medical-surgical intensive care unit; CI, confidence interval; MDRO, multidrug-resistant organisms; methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus; extended-spectrum β-lactamase Enterobacteriaceae; carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae; carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Acinetobacter spp.; CDI, Clostridiodes difficile infection; CLABS, catheter-associated bloodstream infection; CAUTI, catheter-associated urinary tract infection; VAP, ventilator-associated pneumonia; HAI, healthcare-associated infection.

*Cumulative compliance from July 2018 to June 2019.
Mercedes de Tucumán, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; Gabriela Vidiella, Matías Lucero (Maternidad Suizo Argentina, CABA, Argentina); Luciana Gabriela Moya, Miriam Noemí Cheche, Alejandra Enciso (Policlínico Nuequeñ, Neuquén, Argentina); María Laura Seguro, Germán Arevalo, Ricardo Lamberghini (Sanatorio Aconcagua, Cordoba, Argentina); Federico Romero, Fernando Riera (Sanatorio Allende Nueva Cordoba, Cordoba, Argentina); Yanina Nuccetelli (Sanatorio Argentino, La Plata, Argentina); Adriana Manzur, Rosa Contreras, Sandra Roldán (Sanatorio Mayo, San Juan, Argentina); María Alejandra Ureña (Sanatorio Sarmiento, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina); Augusto Cordero Lobaton (Caja de Salud de La Banca Privada, La Paz, Bolivia); María Teresa Guillaume, Karla Cecilia Areteaga Coimbra, Tapaí Torrez Juan Carlos (Clínica Foaini, Santa Cruz, Bolivia); Amanda Lima Dias Morais, Rafael Botelho Fonreges (Hospital Ana Nery, Santa Cruz Do Sul, Brasil); Jane Margaret Costa (Hospital Astrogildo de Azevedo, Santa Maria, Brasil); Rochele Mösman de Menezes, Marcelo Carneiro, Eliane Krümehauer (Hospital Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Do Sul, Brasil); Cristine Pilati Pileggi Castro (Hospital Sao Vicente de Paulo, Passo Fundo, Brasil); Lessandra Michelin (Hospital Unimed Nordeste Rs, Caxias Do Sul, Brasil); José Manuel Munita, David Llanten, María de Los Angeles Spencer Sandino (Clínica Alemana de Santiago, Santiago, Chile); Pablo Tomás Valenzuela García, Carolí Escobar Chimichilla, Sofia Palma Waldron (Hospital de La Dirección Previsional de Carabineros de Chile, Santiago, Chile); José Manuel Munita, Anne Sophie Peters, Sebastian Solar (Hospital Padre Hurtado, Santiago, Chile); Alexander Guerra Villafranca (Clínica Esensa, Colombia); Alexander Guerra Villafranca, Livia Viviana Acosta Castillo (Clínica La Estancia, Popayan, Colombia); Alexander Guerra Villafranca, Livia Viviana Acosta Castillo, Diana Catalina Zapata Cristancho, Aurora Ximena Castaneda Luquerna (Fundacion Cardioinfantil, Bogota, Colombia); Sanda Milena Guáitero Tinjillo, Alejandro de La Hoz Gomez (Hospital Universitario San Ignacio, Bogota, Colombia); Washington Rene Aleman Espinoza (Hospital Alcivar, Guayaquil, Ecuador); Fausto Guerrero, María Jose Chicaia (Hospital Carlos Andrade Marin, Quito, Ecuador); Ana Paulina Celi de La Torre, Marcela Bovera (Hospital de Los Valles, Quito, Ecuador); Cristina Moreno, Luis Felipe Melendez Carranza, Ana Gabriela Ortega Vallejo (Hospital Metropolitano, Quito, Ecuador); Juan José Romero, Yolanda Marina Espinoza Crespo, Sylvia Jeanneth Illacitha Analuiza (Hospital Vozandes, Quito, Ecuador); Carlos Garcia Cruz, Aquiles Eduardo Bowen Flores (Sociedad de Lucha Contra el Cancer, Guayaquil, Ecuador); Ana Belen Arauz (Clínica Hospital San Fernando, Ciudad de Panama, Panama); Ivan Toiva, Lilia Raquel Aragon Menanta, Jose Alén González (Complejo Hospitalario Dr. Arnulfo Arias, Ciudad de Panama, Panama); Ana Belen Arauz, Sánchez Álex, Joel Medina Jil (Hospital Santo Tomás, Ciudad de Panama, Panama); Jorge Alave, Jussara Huamani, Daniel Saito Roncal (Clínica Good Hope, Breña, Perú); Eddie Alessandro Angles Yanqui, Jorge Dante Florez Arce, Rosa Liduvina Teran Robles (Hospital Nacional Arzobispo Loayza, Lima, Perú); Luís Cauller, Alexis Holguin Ruiz, Juan Velarde Marca (Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplasicas, Lima, Perú); Karina Tenaglia, Grisel Rodriguez, Daniela Tomera (CAMS IAMPP, Mercedes, Argentina); Andrea Iturralde, Adriana Moya, Miriam Raquel Diaz Ana María Félix Sosa (Sanatorio Uruguay, Salto, Uruguay).

Supplementary material. To view supplementary material for this article, please visit https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2021.80

References
1. Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/index.html. Published 2013. Accessed March 4, 2021.
2. Dellinger RP, Levy MM, Rhodes A, et al. Surviving Sepsis Campaign: international guidelines for management of severe sepsis and septic shock, 2012. Intensive Care Med 2013;39:165–228.
3. Camins BC, King MD, Wells JB, et al. Impact of an antimicrobial utilization program on antimicrobial use at a large teaching hospital: a randomized controlled trial. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2009;30:931–938.
4. Ingram PR, Seet JM, Budgen CA, Murray R. Point-prevalence study of inappropriate antibiotic use at a tertiary Australian hospital. Intern Med J 2012;42:719–721.
5. Levin PD, Iredes S, Sprung CL, Weissman C, Weiss Y, Moses AE, Benenson S. Antimicrobial use in the ICU: indications and accuracy—an observational trial. J Hosp Med 2012;7:672–678.
6. Alshammari TM, Larrat EP, Morrill HJ, Caffrey AR, Quilliam BJ, Laplante KL. Risk of hepatotoxicity associated with fluoroquinolones: a national case control safety study. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2014;71:37–43.
7. Bogg S, Cunnnion KM, Raafat RH. Ceftriaxone-induced hemolysis in a child with Lyme arthritis: a case for antimicrobial stewardship. Pediatrics 2011;128(5):e1289–e1292.
8. Hensgens MP, Goorhuis A, Dekkers OM, Kuiper EJ. Time interval of increased risk for Clostridium difficile infection after exposure to antibiotics. J Antimicrob Chemother 2012;67:742–748.
9. Lapi F, Wilchesky M, Kezough A, Benisty JL, Ernst P, Suisa S. Fluoroquinolones and the risk of serious arthritism: a population-based study. Clin Infect Dis 2012;55:1457–1465.
10. Huttner A, Habrath S, Carlet J, et al. Antimicrobial resistance: a global view from the 2013 World Healthcare-AssOCIated Infections Forum. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control 2013;2(1):31.
11. O’Neill J. The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. Tackling drug-resistant infections globally: final report and recommendations. Biomerieux website. https://www.biomerieuxconnection.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Tackling-Drug-Resistant-Infections-Globally_-Final-Report-and-Recommendations. pdf. Updated 2018. Accessed March 4, 2021.
12. Davies S, Grant J, Catchpole M. The Drugs Don’t Work: A Global Threat. New York, Viking, 2014.
13. Davey P, Brown E, Charani E, et al. Interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing practices for hospital inpatients. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2013:4;CD003543.
14. Malani AN, Richards GP, Kapila S, Otto MH, Czerwinski J, Singal B. Clinical and economic outcomes from a community hospital’s antimicrobial stewardship program. Am J Infect Control 2013;41:145–148.
15. Delitt TH, Owens RC, McGowen JE Jr, et al. Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America guidelines for developing an institutional program to enhance antimicrobial stewardship. Clin Infect Dis 2007;44:159–177.
16. Neil Fishman. Policy statement on antimicrobial stewardship by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS). Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2012;33:322–327.
17. Fridkin SK, Baggs J, Fagan R, et al. Vital signs: improving antibiotic use among hospitalized patients. Morbid Mortal Weekly Rep 2014;63:194–200.
18. Barlam TF, Cosgrove SE, Abbo LM, et al. Implementing an antibiotic stewardship program: guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. Clin Infect Dis 2016;62(10):e51–e77.
19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2019.
20. Scheetz MH, Bolon MK, Postelnick M, Noskin GA and Lee TA. Cost-effective-
27. Versporten A, Zarb P, Caniaux I, et al. Antimicrobial consumption and resistance in adult hospital inpatients in 53 countries: results of an internet-based global point prevalence survey. *Lancet Glob Health* 2018;6:e619–e629.

28. WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology. Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system: guidelines for ATC classification and DDD assignment. World Health Organization website. [http://www.whocc.no/](http://www.whocc.no/). Accessed February 7, 2018.

29. Polk RE, Fox C, Mahoney A, Letcavage J, MacDougall C. Measurement of adult antibacterial drug use in 130 US hospitals: comparison of defined daily dose and days of therapy. *Clin Infect Dis* 2007;44:664–670.

30. Pollack LA, van Santen KL, Weiner LM, Dudeck MA, Edwards JR, Arinivasan J. Antibiotic stewardship programs in US acute-care hospitals: findings from the 2014 National Healthcare Safety Network annual hospital survey. *Clin Infect Dis* 2016;63:443–449.

31. Howard P, Pulcini C, Levy Hara G, et al. An international cross-sectional survey of antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2015;70:1245–1255.

32. Muñoz JS, Motoa G, Escandón-Vargas K, et al. Antimicrobial stewardship practices in Latin America: a multidisciplinary characterization. Presented at IDWeek 2015, Philadelphia, PA.

33. Guzman-Blanco M, Labarca JA, Villegas MV, et al. Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producers among nosocomial Enterobacteriaceae in Latin America. *Braz J Infect Dis* 2014;18:421–433.

34. Guzman-Blanco M, Mejia C, Istituriz R, et al. Epidemiology of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Latin America. *Int J Antimicrob Agents* 2009;34:304–308.

35. Escandón-Vargas K, Reyesa S, Gutiérrez S, and Villegas MV. The epidemiology of carbapenemases in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Expert Rev Anti-infec Ther* 2017;15:277–297.

36. Global antimicrobial resistance surveillance system: manual for early implementation. World Health Organization website. [http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/surveillance-system-manual/en](http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/surveillance-system-manual/en). Published 2015. Accessed March 4, 2021.

37. Leonard J, Marshall JK, Moayyedi P. Systematic review of the risk of enteric infection in patients taking acid suppression. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2007;102:2047–2056.

38. De Waele JJ, Akova M, Antonelli M, Canton R, et al. Antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic stewardship programs in the ICU: insistence and persistence in the fight against resistance. A position statement from ESICM/ESCMID/WAAAR round table on multidrug resistance. *Intensive Care Med* doi: 10.1007/s00134-017-5036-1.

39. Chiotos K, Tamma PD, and Gerber JS. Antibiotic stewardship in the intensive care unit: challenges and opportunities. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2019;40:693–698.