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Antibiotic Awareness Week 2024 Hospital Highlight: Coulee Medical Center

Washington's rural and critical access hospitals are enhancing their stewardship efforts through the University of Washington Centers for Stewardship in Medicine (UW-CSiM)'s Intensive Quality Improvement Cohort (IQIC). A survey was sent out to WA participants containing interview-style questions with the goal of highlighting their work. We are pleased to be able to share their responses in this special Hospital Highlight for Antibiotic Awareness Week 2024.

1. Tell us about your hospital and the services that it provides to the community

- Coulee Medical Center is a 25-bed critical access hospital located in Grand Coulee. They proudly offer to their community an emergency room, a wound care center, and obstetrics (OB) unit, a surgery department, and a medical-surgical unit.

2. Tell us about your project with UW-CSiM's IQIC

- We learned that antibiotic durations needed to be shortened, and the electronic medical record (EMR) had issues for prescribers when it came to choosing appropriate antibiotic durations. We also learned that we did urinalyses in asymptomatic patients.

3. Tell us about your stewardship team. How did they work together during the IQIC project?

- Our stewardship team is co-led by a physician champion (Dr. Chaffee) and a nurse. Education to the medical staff is provided by the physician champion at meetings and on an individual basis. The registered nurse (RN) collects all data and shares that with medical staff and physician champion. We also work with the lab, hospital leadership and the IT team to make changes or be aware and have input into our antimicrobial stewardship program.

4. What has been the most impactful part of your stewardship project?

- Shorter durations of antibiotics and improved working relationships. We also resolved our EMR's issues.

5. What words of wisdom or advice do you have for your stewardship colleagues?

- Collect data to find top needs. Pick 1 or 2 needs and then create 1 or 2 goals. Keep it small and targeted.



DOH 420-641 | November 2024

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