

November 2025

Criteria Antibiotic Smart Sweden - Long-term Care

These criteria have been developed in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and professionals in the long-term care system in Sweden and have been pilot-tested in long-term care facilities in different geographical locations in Sweden.

By working with Antibiotic Smart Sweden's criteria, long-term care facilities contribute to increased patient safety through fewer infections, reduced spread of infections and in turn reduced need for antibiotics.

Organisation and Collaboration

1. The long-term care facility has appointed a hygiene representative to support the implementation and follow-up of infection prevention routines.

Purpose: One or more hygiene representatives can act as ambassadors for the infection prevention work and the representatives can also be resources in the infection prevention and control efforts.

2. The long-term care facility has an established contact or collaboration with the regional infection prevention and control unit.

Purpose: Through an established contact with the regional infection prevention and control unit, the care facility will have access to expert support.

Measurements

3. The long-term care facility measures and documents healthcare-associated infections, risk factors and number of ongoing antibiotic treatments, at a minimum once a year.

Purpose: This criterion aims to stimulate measurements of healthcare-associated infections, risk factors for infections and antibiotic use, as well as ongoing antibiotic treatments within the care facility. The data from these measurements could then be basis for systematic improvement.

4. The long-term care facility measures and documents staff compliance with basic hygiene routines and dress code at least once a year.

Purpose: Adherence to basic hygiene routines and dress code policy is one of the most important measures to prevent the spread of infections within healthcare.

5. The long-term care facility yearly performs and documents an infection prevention and control self-assessment.

Purpose: This self-assessment has the purpose to stimulate structured actions to prevent spread of infections and improve the infection prevention and control quality. It should be seen as a supporting tool to identify areas in need of improvements to ensure high quality infection prevention and control within the care facility.

Working Methods

6. The long-term care facility develops an action plan based on the results of performed measurements.

Purpose: Based on the results from the completed measurements and the self-assessment, the care facility identifies and prioritizes measures. These are compiled into an action plan.

7. The long-term care facility implements activities based on the locally developed action plan.

Purpose: The care facility makes continual efforts to improve practices based on the local needs and priorities identified in the action plan(s).

8. The long-term care facility has a documented structure for how measurements and the established action plan are continuously followed-up and reported back to relevant managers and staff.

Purpose: The follow-up should clarify and analyse possible reasons for changes in measurements. The feedback is important for the employees' individual learning and for the learning within the organisation. The feedback is also important to maintain the staff's commitment and understanding of why measurements are made within the care facility.

Professional Development

9. The long-term care facility annually carries out training for all staff in basic hygiene routines and other infection prevention measures.

Purpose: Recurring training is important to ensure knowledge of basic hygiene routines and other infection prevention measures among staff, and new employees need introductory training.

Optional Criteria

A. The long-term care facility conducts more substantial quality improvement work, for example in collaboration with other care facilities or other parts of the care organization, based on the locally established action plan.

B. The long-term care facility conducts quality improvement work within the areas of antibiotics and infection prevention and control that also involves district physicians.

C. The long-term care facility arranges an annual activity about hygiene and antibiotics that involves staff, residents, and relatives.