

November 2025

Criteria Antibiotic Smart Sweden - Primary Healthcare Centres

The criteria have been developed in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and professionals in the primary healthcare system and have been pilot-tested in primary healthcare centres in different geographical locations in Sweden.

At an antibiotic-smart primary healthcare centre, employees and managers work together to inspire everyone - colleagues, patients, and caregivers to use antibiotics responsibly and reduce incidence of healthcare-associated infections. Efforts to limit the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance is an important part of the patient safety work.

Organisation and Collaboration

1. The primary healthcare centre has a team with specific responsibility for antibiotics and infection prevention and control (IPC) consisting of a physician, nurse, and assistant nurse.

Working Methods

2. The primary healthcare centre aims for strong compliance with current treatment guidelines for common infections in outpatient care, by (a) retrieving data on relevant infection indicators from a system with diagnosis-linked data, (b) establishing an action plan, and (c) engaging the staff in the implementation of the action plan.

3. The primary healthcare centre (a) monitors its total antibiotic prescription over the year, (b) compares prescription levels with other primary healthcare centres in the local area, and (c) discusses results within the staff group.

Measurements and follow-up

4. The primary healthcare centre (a) regularly monitors compliance with basic hygiene routines and dress code and (b) reflects on the results together with the staff and adjusts practices accordingly.

5. The primary healthcare centre (a) conducts an annual IPC self-assessment and (b) develops an action plan that (c) is continuously followed up and adjusted.

Communication and Professional Development

6. The staff participate in annual trainings on the treatment of common infections in outpatient care.

7. The staff participate in annual trainings on basic hygiene routines and dress code guidelines and discuss results from the healthcare centres own measurements.

8. The staff communicate with patients about infections and antibiotics, and support behavioural change through patient-centred working methods.

Optional Criteria

A. The primary healthcare centre has clarified the collaboration around administration of antibiotics and IPC between physicians in the primary healthcare centre and colleagues in home-based care and/or long-term care facilities.

B. The primary healthcare centre carries out at least one quality improvement project in the area of antibiotic use and IPC, involving home-based care and/or long-term care facilities.

C. The primary healthcare centre follows up on other indicators to increase the quality of antibiotic prescribing.