

ICHP Post-Activity Report

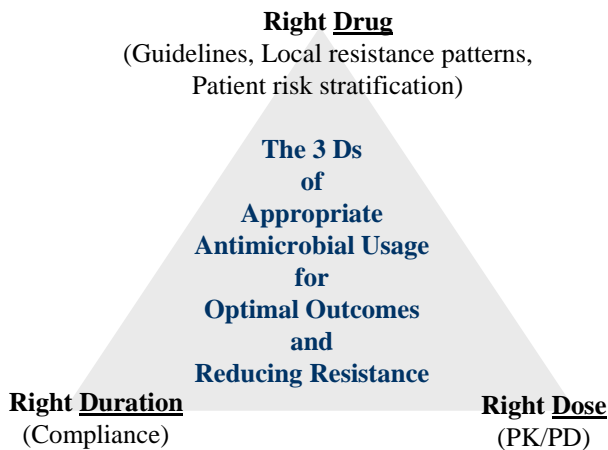
The Illinois CHP (ICHP) Annual Meeting was held from August 26–28 in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. “**Zero Tolerance for HAIs**”, a breakfast/lunch symposium on August 26, was part of the official program and was attended by 130 participants. This was the second year of the “**Zero Tolerance**” program at the ICHP Annual Meeting. This year’s program was designed to address quality improvement and patient safety issues in hospitals with respect to HAIs.

Dr. Carrie Sincak, President Elect of ICHP, welcomed and introduced the session. Dr. James Lewis provided a brief overview of the program and the challenges associated with HAIs.

“Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to global stability and national security.”
World Health Organization

Dr. Thomas File discussed specific clinical issues associated with difficult Gram-positive and Gram-negative pathogens. Dr. File emphasized that antimicrobial resistance is a “**security threat**” and efforts must be dedicated to reducing its incidence and development.

Dr. Elizabeth Dodds Ashley discussed tools and strategies that pharmacists can incorporate to improve patient outcomes when dealing with infections due to multidrug-resistant pathogens—appropriate antimicrobial selection and optimized dosing regimens. Dr. Ashley emphasized collaboration with other healthcare team members—for example, with the microbiology laboratory to develop an antibiogram that best suits the needs of the institution (separating the antibiogram by wards and/or developing a combination antibiogram).



“Using a combination antibiogram makes a lot of sense, especially when monotherapy is not going to be sufficient to provide effective coverage for a particular pathogen and you want to maximize the probability that a combination of agents will work.”
Elizabeth Dodds Ashley, PharmD

Clinical Skills Workshop

Following the faculty presentations, Dr. Lewis led the audience through a detailed case study translating the evidence-based presentations into clinical practice. Dr. File reminded the audience that patient cases are not always black-and-white and that clinicians must adapt management decisions based on particular patient scenarios.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting

During the final part of the program, Dr. Shellee Grim led a simulated Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting to discuss implementing extended infusions of β -lactams at the institution. This simulation identified many challenges associated with this dosing strategy. Predominant among these challenges were push-back from nursing and deciding which patients should be targeted.