

What is the Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (AC NAPS)?

AC NAPS is an annual survey, which monitors infections and assesses antimicrobial prescribing practices for people in residential aged care. In 2021 it can be undertaken on any single day between 1 June and mid December.

Participation in AC NAPS assists aged care homes and multi-purpose services identify how they can improve the safety of care for residents.



Participation also assists facilities to meet the Australian Aged Care Quality Standards, which require demonstration of 'practices that promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use to support optimal care and reduce the risk of increasing resistance to antibiotics'.



Previous AC NAPS surveys have identified documentation of the reason for prescribing an antimicrobial, high use of topical antimicrobials and prolonged use of antimicrobials, as areas for improvement.



September 2020



ALL Australian aged care homes and multi-purpose services are eligible to participate in 2021.

Participation is strongly encouraged to improve the safety of care provided to residents.

What is antimicrobial resistance?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of a microorganism (bacteria, viruses and parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (antibiotic, antiviral and antifungal) from working against it. The single most important contributor to resistance is the overuse and misuse of antibiotics.

Why is antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use an issue for aged care residents?

A number of studies have shown that Australian aged care home residents have a high rate of AMR.^{1,2} A high level of inappropriate antimicrobial use in Australian aged care homes that contribute to AC NAPS has also been identified. These findings mean that residents are at risk of acquiring and transmitting AMR infections, and of other harms from antimicrobial use such as drug toxicity and unnecessary costs.

How should the survey be performed and what data is collected?

Data can be collected for AC NAPS by a senior nurse, infection control practitioner, general practitioner or pharmacist. The National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS) will host online training sessions later in the year, provide phone support and the NAPS website also has online training materials.

AC NAPS collects descriptive information about each participating facility (including location, provider type, number and age profile of residents present on the survey day) and specific data about residents who have a confirmed or suspected infection and/or are receiving an antimicrobial on the survey day. No identifying information is collected for residents.

For more information

Email support@naps.org.au or telephone (03) 9342 9415

Register for a training session via the NAPS website: www.naps.org.au.

AC NAPS is a collaboration between the participating aged care homes, the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS), Guidance Group and Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance System (VICNISS) Coordinating Centre.

¹ Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Australian Passive Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance. First report: multi-resistant organisms. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2018

² Stuart RL, Kotsanas D, Webb B, Vandergraff S, Gillespie EE, Hogg GG, Korman T. Prevalence of antimicrobial-resistant organisms in residential aged care facilities Med J Aust 2011; 195 (9): 530-533.
