

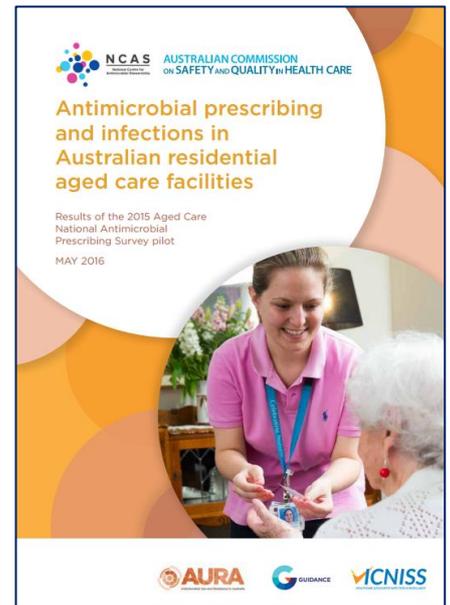
## What is the Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (acNAPS)\*?

acNAPS is an annual survey that can be undertaken on any single day between 1 June 2018 and 31 August 2018.

Participation in the survey assists aged care homes to identify improvements they can make to reduce harm to residents through promoting the appropriate use of antimicrobials, preventing infections, and helping reduce the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

Participation will also assist aged care homes to monitor how well they meet the Australian Aged Care Accreditation Standards.

Previous acNAPS surveys in [2015](#) and [2016](#) have identified key areas for improvement such as documentation of the reason for an antimicrobial, high use of topical antimicrobials and prolonged use of antimicrobials



**ALL Australian aged care homes and multi-purpose services are eligible to participate in 2018.**

**Participation is strongly encouraged to assist with improving the safety of care provided to residents.**

\*acNAPS 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. acNAPS is funded by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) as part of the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia Surveillance System.

## What is antimicrobial resistance?

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

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

A number of studies have shown that there is high prevalence of AMR in Australian aged care home residents<sup>1,2</sup>, and a high level of inappropriate antimicrobial use in Australian aged care homes. These findings mean that residents are at risk of acquiring and transmitting AMR infections, and of harms from antimicrobial use such as AMR, drug toxicity and unnecessary costs.

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

Some general demographic and denominator data about each participating aged care home is collected. More specific data is required for those residents who have a confirmed or suspected infection and/or are receiving an antimicrobial on the survey day. Data can be collected by a senior nurse, infection control practitioner or pharmacist.

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## For more information

Email [support@naps.org.au](mailto:support@naps.org.au) or telephone (03) 9342 9415

**Registration for a training session is possible via the NAPS website:**  
[www.naps.org.au](http://www.naps.org.au). The website also has online training materials.

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<sup>1</sup> Coombs G, Bell JM, Daley D, Collignon P, Cooley L, Gottlieb T, Iredell J, Kotsanas D, Nimmo G and Robson J on behalf of the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Turnidge JD. Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. Sepsis Outcome Programs 2016 Report. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2018

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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