

November 2024

Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll Report

Georgia Acute Care Facilities

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the appropriate use of antibiotics is one of the most effective strategies to combat the urgent threat of antimicrobial resistance.¹ Antibiotic stewardship programs in acute care hospitals across the state aim to optimize the use of antibiotics to fight antimicrobial resistance, improve patient outcomes, and minimize adverse effects.

The Antibiotic Stewardship (AS) Honor Roll Program recognizes healthcare facilities that demonstrate outstanding commitment to antibiotic stewardship practices.

This report summarizes data from healthcare institutions acknowledged for their efforts in antibiotic stewardship through the AS Honor Roll program. The analysis highlights key trends, successful strategies, and needed areas of improvement.

Interested in a consultation with the DPH Antibiotic Stewardship Team? Scan below!



Key Objectives of the AS Honor Roll Program



Decrease antibiotic resistance by promoting best practices



Recognize successful engagement in antibiotic stewardship



Provide support & access to stewardship expertise



Help identify and address gaps in stewardship programs













Assist in forming local collaboratives



Provide Antibiotic Stewardship education and resources

CRITERIA AND DESIGNATIONS

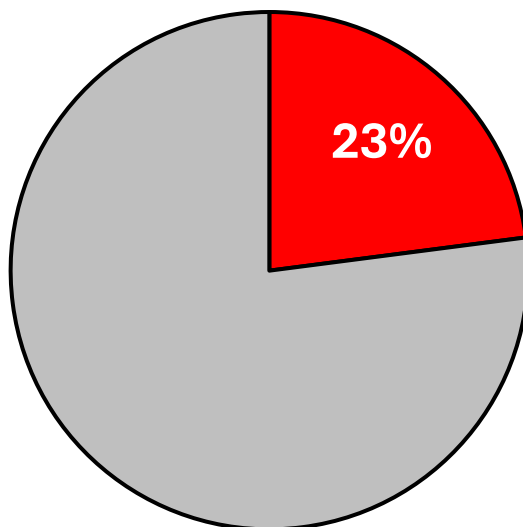
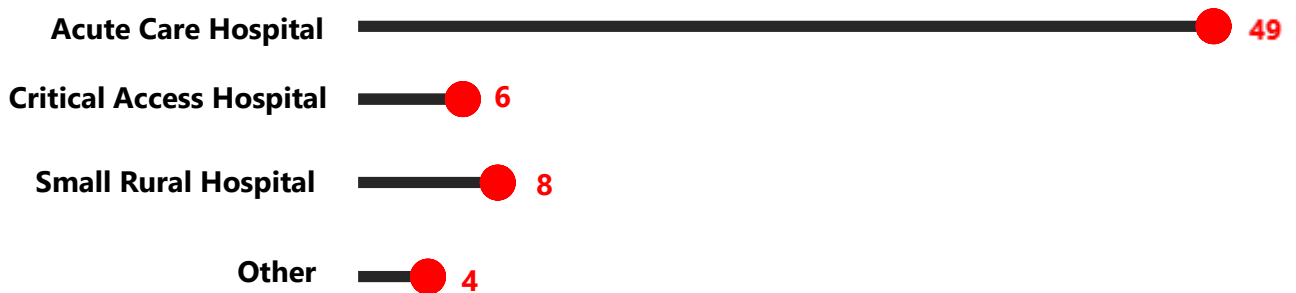
The AS Honor Roll Program is modeled after the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs*. To receive a bronze designation, facilities must meet all 7 Core Elements as described below. Additional criteria must be met to achieve Silver, Gold, or Platinum status. Facilities enrolled in the AS Honor Roll Program receive a designation expiring 3 years after the application date.

Criteria	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Platinum Level
<p>Leadership: Statement of commitment and ASP Policy and/or Procedure</p> <p>Accountability & Pharmacy Expertise: Physician or pharmacist who leads ASP and multidisciplinary committee overseeing ASP</p> <p>Action: Performing prospective audit and feedback and policy requiring indication or diagnosis on antibiotic orders</p> <p>Tracking: Tracking resistance patterns or antibiogram</p> <p>Reporting: Reporting resistance patterns and impact of ASP activities to leadership</p> <p>Education: Providing education to all relevant staff</p>				
<p>Action: Restricted agent list and utilize two evidence-based guidelines</p>				
<p>Tracking: Tracking acceptance rates of prospective audit and feedback recommendations, evaluating adherence to at least one evidence-based guideline, monitoring antibiotic use data, and tracking requests and approvals for restricted agents</p>				
<p>Accountability & Pharmacy Expertise: Leader or co-leader with specialized training</p> <p>Action: NHSN AU module utilized to improve AS efforts</p> <p>Reporting: Providing prescriber-level, unit-specific, or service-line-specific reports regarding AU</p> <p>Education: Providing competency-based training</p>				

THE APPLICANTS

All Georgia hospitals (acute care, critical access, long-term acute care) were invited to participate in the AS Honor Roll. Rural, small, and critical access hospitals face special challenges in implementing antibiotic stewardship initiatives, in part due to limitations in staffing, infrastructure, and resources.³ However, antibiotic stewardship is no less important in these settings and these facilities were a focus of outreach for the AS Honor Roll Program. Individual institutions within a healthcare system were required to apply separately to achieve designation for each facility. Facilities not meeting the Honor Roll criteria were encouraged to complete the application and use resources offered through the AS Honor Roll Program.

The majority of the **61 total** applicants were from acute care hospitals.



Rural hospitals made up less than one-quarter of the applicant pool. They often have limited access to stewardship expertise and other resources.

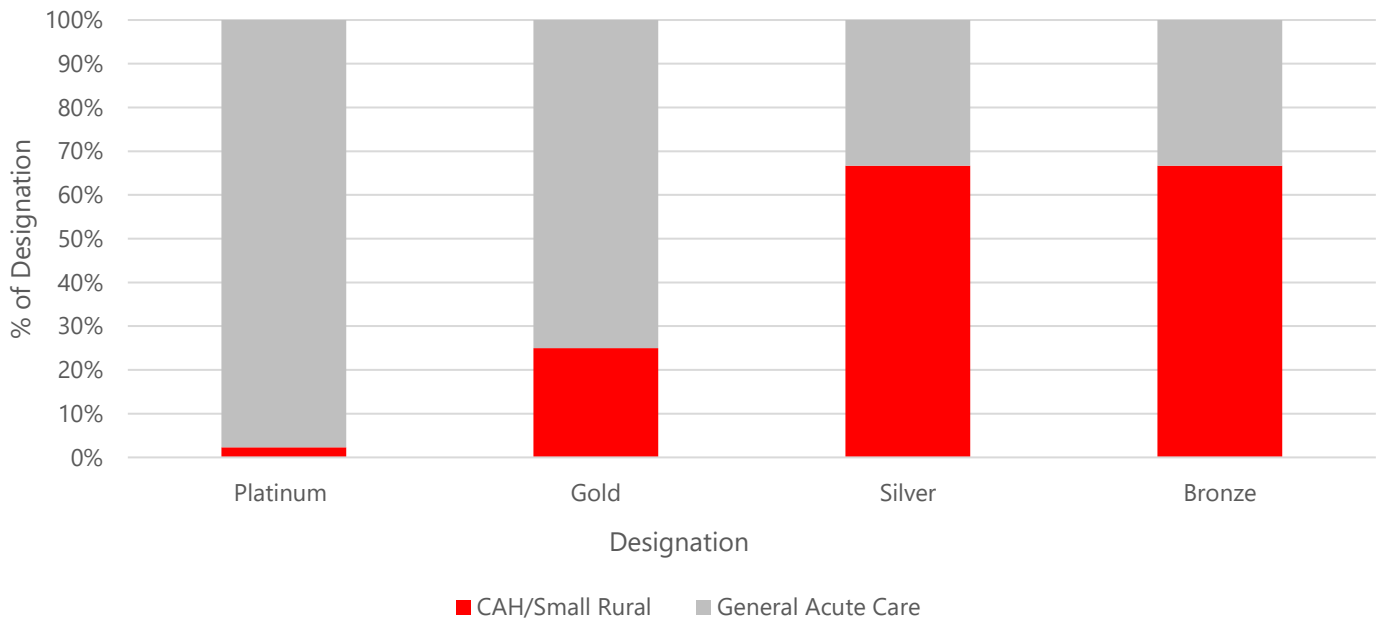
RESULTS

The application review process included two phases of review completed by the Georgia DPH Antibiotic Stewardship staff. Applications were first reviewed for completeness. Applicants were notified of any missing information or documentation and allowed to submit clarification. The second phase was a complete review of each program to determine the final designation.

Of the 61 recipients, **Platinum** was the most frequently awarded designation.



Critical Access and Small Rural Hospitals were more likely to achieve silver or bronze status.



THE PRIORITIES

The *Hospital Core Elements* are a structural and procedural guideline for a successful stewardship program. Hospitals that have implemented the *Hospital Core Elements* can implement the *Priorities* to enhance their stewardship program further. The *Priorities* have been identified for six of the seven Core Elements, which provide hospital leadership and antibiotic stewards opportunities to expand their antibiotic stewardship programs.² The AS Honor Roll Program assessed for uptake of the *Priorities* in 4 of the 6 available *Hospital Core Elements*.

Accountability

Priority: ASP is co-led by a physician and a pharmacist



Does the facility have a dedicated physician and/or pharmacist who leads/co-leads the antibiotic stewardship program?

100% of applicants responded YES



Stewardship Expertise

Priority: AS physician and/or pharmacist leader(s) have completed infectious disease specialty training or other AS training



Does the facility's antibiotic stewardship program leader/co-leader have specialized training in antibiotic stewardship or infectious disease?

72% of applicants responded YES



Action

Priority: ASP has facility-specific treatment recommendations for common clinical conditions and performs prospective audit/feedback or preauthorization



Has your facility's antibiotic stewardship program implemented at least two evidence-based guidelines/policies to improve antibiotic use?

95% of applicants responded YES



Does the facility perform prospective audit and feedback regarding antibiotic prescribing practices?

100% of applicants responded YES



Does the facility perform preauthorization for specific antibiotic agents?

95% of applicants responded YES



Reporting

Priority: Antibiotic use reports are provided at least annually to target feedback to prescribers. In addition, the ASP monitors adherence to facility-specific treatment recommendations for at least one common clinical condition



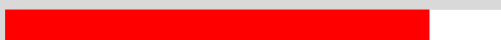
Does the antibiotic stewardship program provide individual prescriber-level, unit-specific, or service-line-specific reports regarding antibiotic use to prescribers at least annually?

72% of applicants responded YES

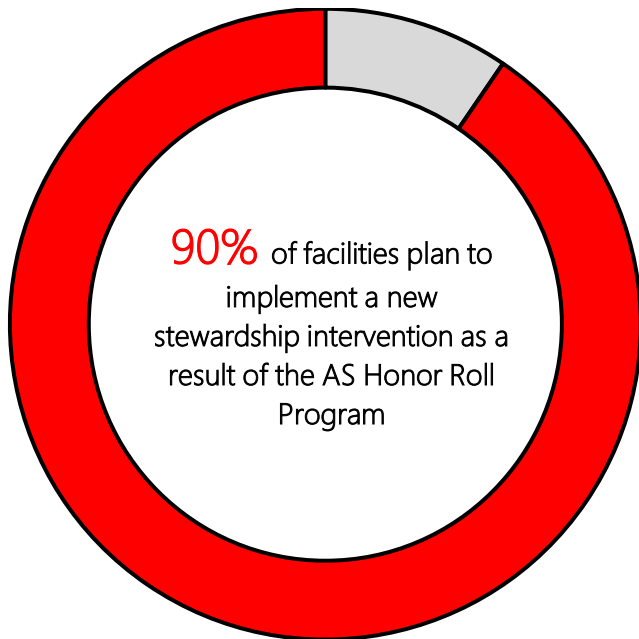


Does the antibiotic stewardship program evaluate adherence to at least one of the evidence-based guidelines the hospital implements?

85% of applicants responded YES



SUCCESS STORIES



“ To **satisfy the requirement** for providing antibiotic use reports, we can begin with providing reports to the department chairs for a higher level of review and then work on narrowing down to prescriber-level ”

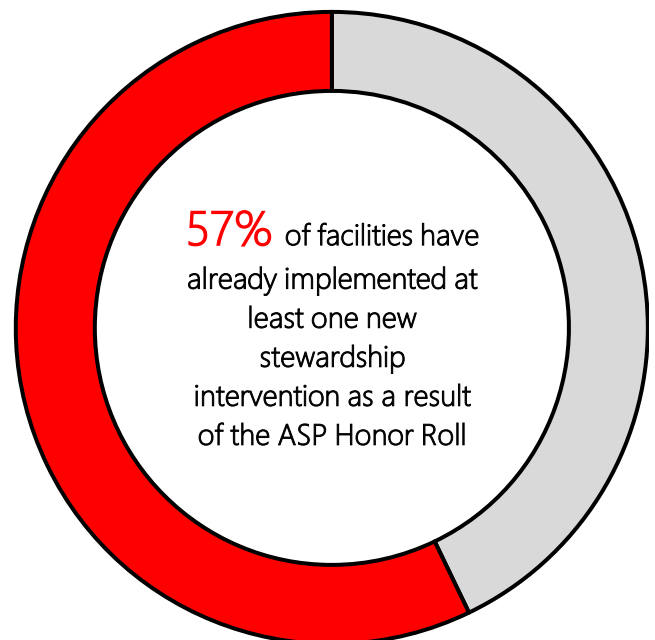
-facility meeting minutes

“ This award process has served as a **great checklist** tool for rural hospitals like ourselves, especially, to gauge our progress with ASP initiatives. Since applying for the award, we have already **developed action plans** in order to achieve a higher designation. Additionally, we have discovered the resources that DPH affords rural hospitals in assisting us to attain these goals. Thank you so much for what you do and we are so honored to be BRONZE!!! ”

-anonymous participant

“ Thank you for highlighting the **importance** of Antimicrobial Stewardship and for implementing a framework to **promote continued improvement** ”

-anonymous participant



HONOR ROLL RECIPIENTS



Platinum

Advent Health Redmond
City of Hope - Atlanta
Colquitt Regional Medical Center
Crisp Regional Hospital
Effingham Health System
Emory Decatur Hospital
Emory Hillandale Hospital
Emory Johns Creek Hospital
Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital
Emory University Hospital
Emory University Hospital Midtown
Grady Health System
Hamilton Medical Center
Northside Hospital Atlanta
Northside Hospital Cherokee
Northside Hospital Duluth
Northside Hospital Forsyth
Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Piedmont Athens Regional
Piedmont Atlanta Hospital
Piedmont Augusta Hospital
Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center
Piedmont Columbus Northside
Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown
Piedmont Eastside Medical
Piedmont Fayette Hospital
Piedmont Henry Hospital (PHH)
Piedmont Macon
Piedmont Macon North
Piedmont McDuffie
Piedmont Mountainside
Piedmont Newnan Hospital
Piedmont Newton Hospital
Piedmont Rockdale Hospital
Piedmont Walton Hospital
Southern Regional Medical Center
St. Mary's Hospital
St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital
Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center

Wellstar Cobb Medical Center
Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center
Wellstar MCG Health
Wellstar Paulding Medical Center
Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center
Wellstar Windy Hill



Gold

Atrium Health Floyd
Emory Long- Term Acute Care
Hospital
Houston Healthcare
Memorial Satilla Health
Putnam General Hospital
Roosevelt Warm Springs Rehabilitation
and Specialty Hospitals
Wellstar Douglas Medical Center
Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center



Silver

Atrium Health-Navicent
Evans Memorial Hospital
Farview Park Hospital
Miller County Hospital
Taylor Regional Hospital
Wellstar Spalding Medical Center



Bronze

Advent Health Murray
Upton Regional Medical Center
Emanuel Medical Center

REFERENCES

1. CDC. Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Health Departments. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2023. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/core-elements/healthdepartments.html>
2. CDC. Priorities for Hospital Core Element Implementation. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2024. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/core-elements/hospital-implementation.html>
3. CDC. Implementation of Antibiotic Stewardship Core Elements at Small and Critical Access Hospitals, CDC; 2024. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/core-elements/small-and-critical-access-hospitals.html>