

# Andre M. Gouws Memorial Lecture in Infectious Disease Pharmacy



# How to Win Stewards and Influence Prescribing:

Building Relationships and Networks in Antimicrobial Stewardship

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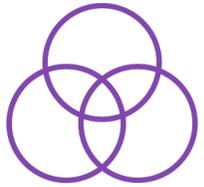
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023



@Stevens\_AK



# Objectives:



Describe key commonalities and differences between inpatient and outpatient antimicrobial stewardship



Discuss strategies to build ASP networks



Design collaborative efforts which leverage ASP networks and improve antimicrobial utilization

# Geographic Journey

## PGY1:

Alaska Native  
Medical Center  
Anchorage, AK

## Undergraduate:

Carroll College  
Helena, MT

## PharmD:

U. Montana  
Missoula, MT

## Hometown:

Colstrip, MT



## 2011-2019:

Providence  
Alaska Medical  
Center  
Anchorage, AK

## Currently:

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN

# Antimicrobial Stewardship Journey

**2011-2019**

**Institution:** Providence Alaska

**Institution Size:** 401

**Setting:** Inpatient

**Role:** Co-chair

**Primary Targets:**

- Medicine teams (contracted)
- Surgical teams (contracted)

**Primary Methods:**

- Prospective audit and feedback
- Education

**Program Age:** 0 years

**2019 – Current**

**Institution:** Mayo Clinic

**Institution Size:** 2059 beds (2 hospitals)

**Setting:** Inpatient

**Role:** Team member

**Primary Targets:**

- Medicine teams
- Surgical teams

**Primary Methods:**

- Prospective audit and feedback
- Semi-restricted formulary

**Program Age:** 22 years

**2019 – Current**

**Institution:** Mayo Clinic

**Institution Size:** VERY large

**Setting:** Outpatient

**Role:** Co-chair

**Primary Targets:**

- Family Medicine
- Community Internal Medicine
- Urgent Care/ED
- Pediatrics

**Primary Methods:**

- Education
- Clinical Decision Support
- Data Modeling/Reporting

**Program Age:** 0 years

# CDC Core Elements Inpatient vs. Outpatient

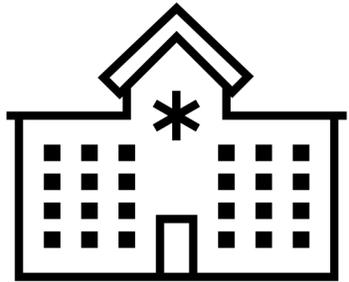
## CDC Core Elements - Inpatient

## CDC Core Elements - Outpatient

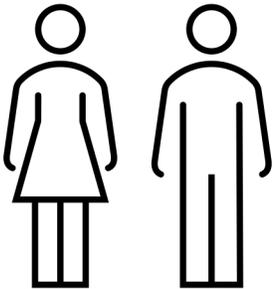


# Do I Need a Network?

## “The One (or Two)-Person Show”



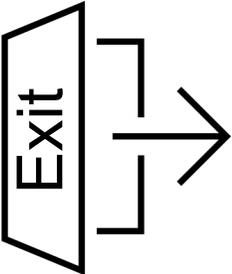
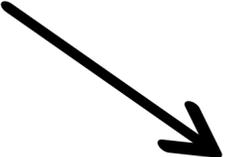
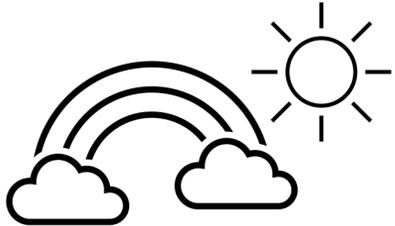
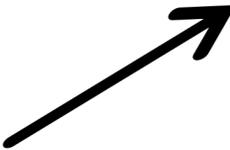
Hospital needs



Programmatic Leaders

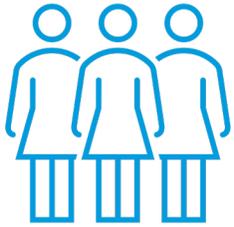


- Commitment
- Action
- Reporting/Tracking
- Education



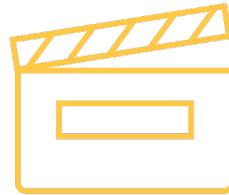
# The People Behind the Core Elements

## ***Leadership Commitment***



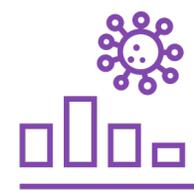
- Hospital leadership
  - “C-suite”
- Programmatic leaders
  - PharmD
  - MD

## ***Action***



- Programmatic leaders
- ASP team members
- Key stakeholders
  - MDs/APPs
  - PharmDs
  - RN
  - Microbiology
  - Patients
  - IPAC

## ***Tracking/ Reporting***



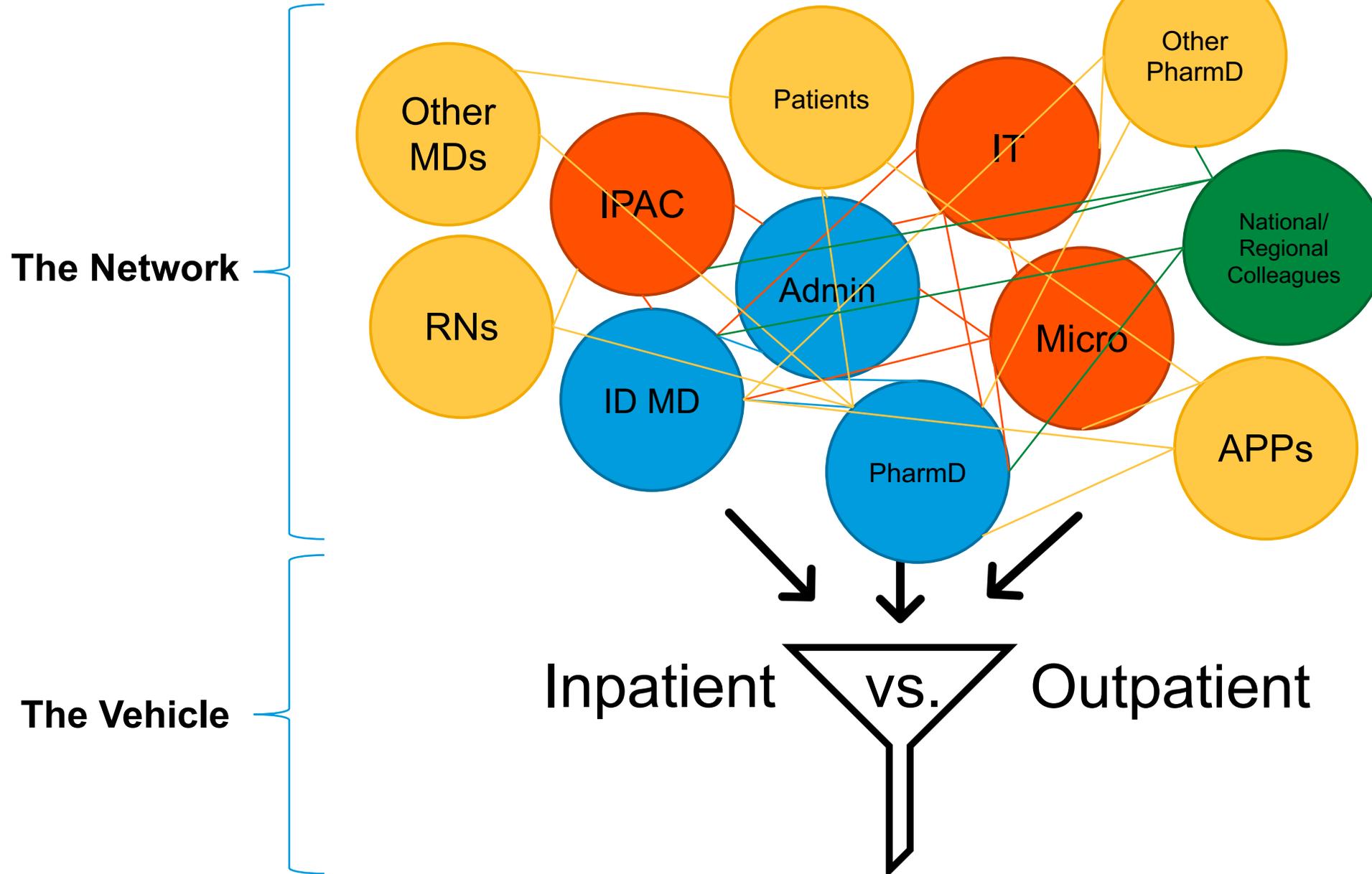
- Hospital leadership
- Programmatic leaders
  - PharmD
  - MD
- Drug expertise
- Informatics
- Microbiology
- IPAC

## ***Education***



- Programmatic leaders
- Key stakeholders
- End users
- National/regional collaborators
- Patients

# The Network and the Vehicle

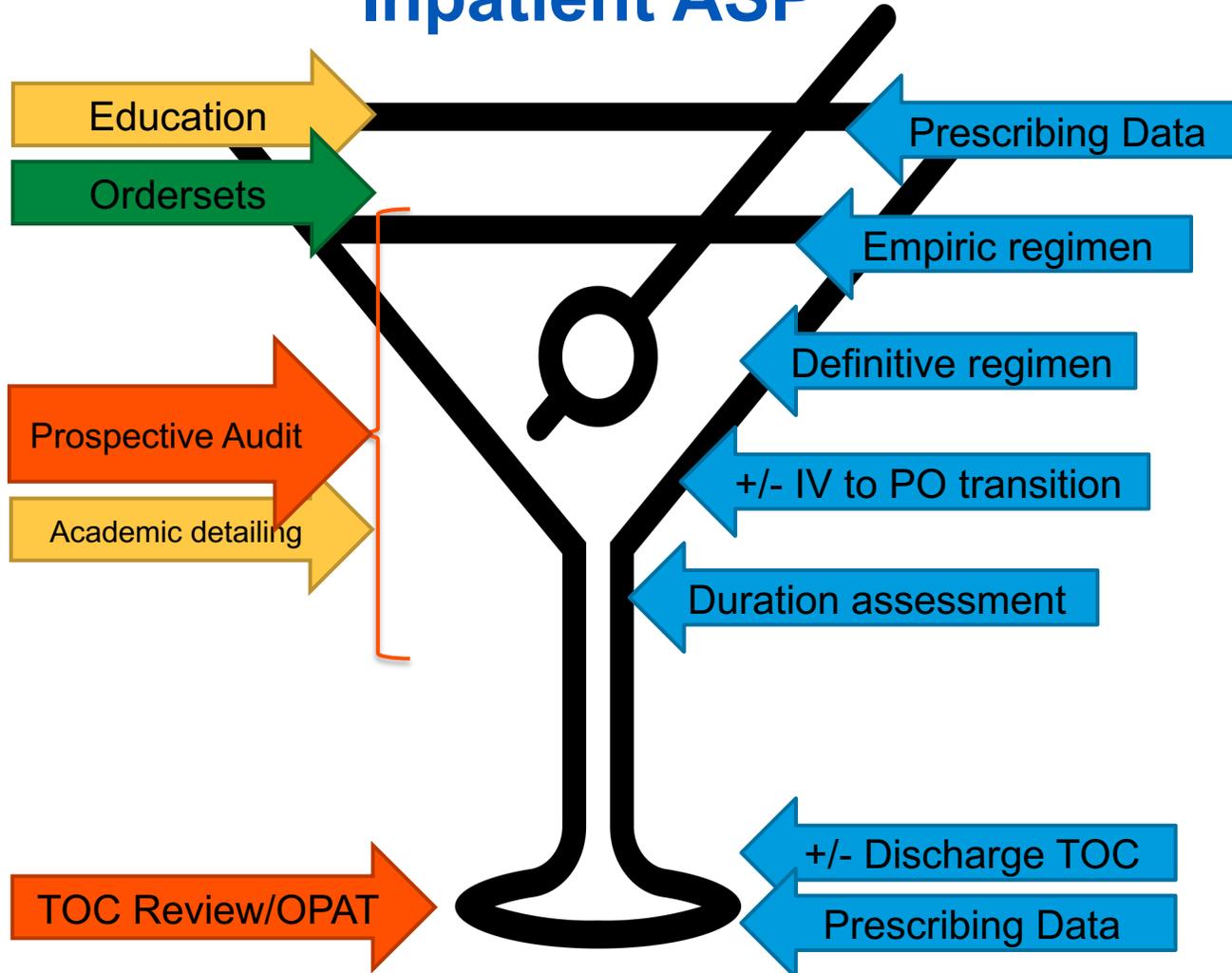


# Inpatient vs. Outpatient

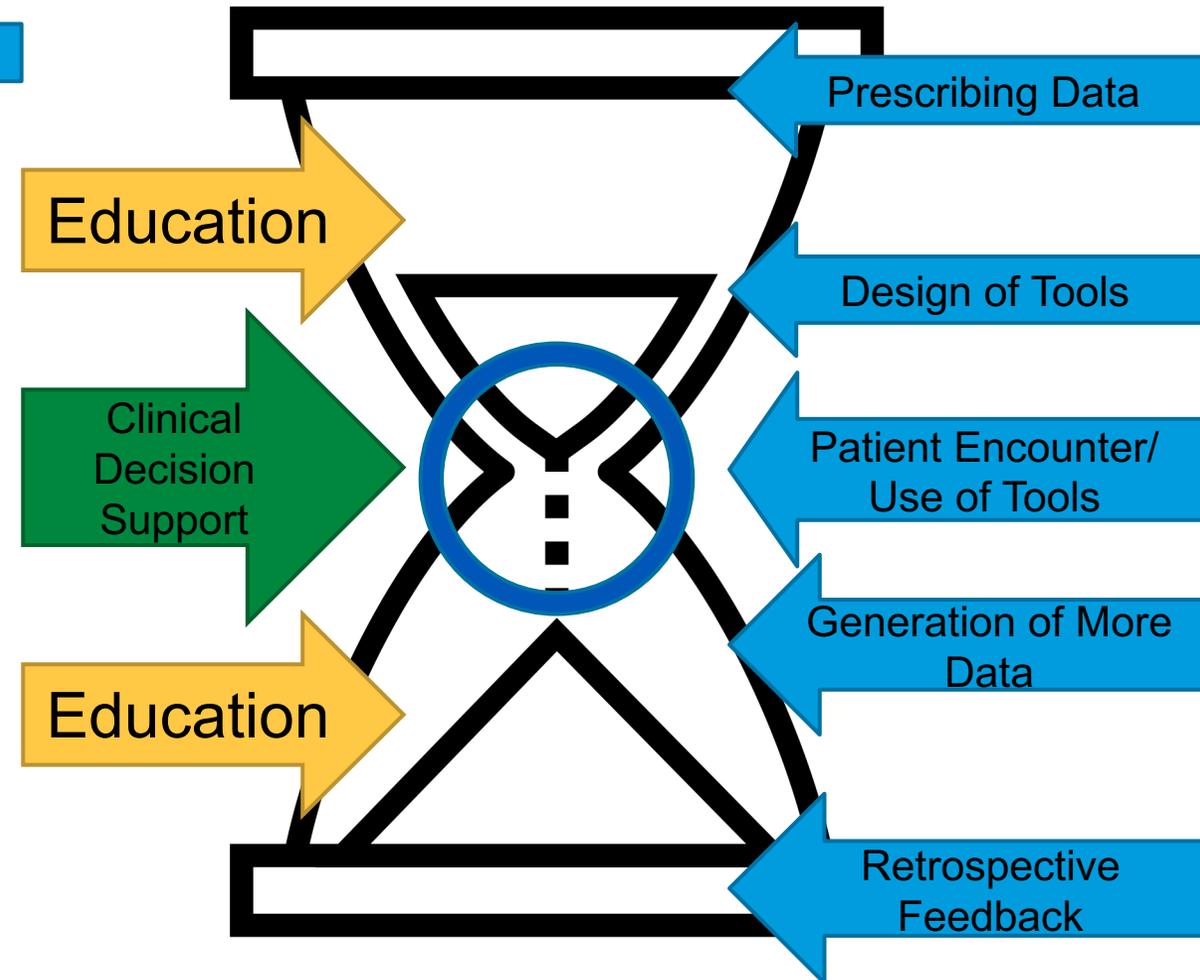
	Inpatient	Outpatient
<b>Length of Encounter</b>	Day to Weeks	Minutes
<b>Volume of Encounters</b>	+	+++
<b>Antimicrobial Routes of Administration</b>	IV/PO	Largely PO
<b>Available Data</b>	Robust clinical, laboratory, radiographic, and microbiologic data	Data limited to patient assessment/pre-appointment laboratory work
<b>Internal Control Over Dispensing</b>	High (reliance on staff) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulary restriction</li> <li>• In-house pharmacy verification</li> <li>• Automatic route switches</li> <li>• Real-time ASP intervention</li> </ul>	Low (reliance on systems) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of external pharmacies</li> <li>• Lack of in-house pharmacist verification (?)</li> <li>• Disconnect between dispensing pharmacist and chart review (?)</li> <li>• Primarily retrospective feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Adaptability for Regimen Re-design</b>	Prospective audit with intervention and feedback	Less ability to change regimens
<b>Staff Factors</b>	Centrally located staff	Staff distributed over multiple clinics

# ASP Glasses

## Inpatient ASP



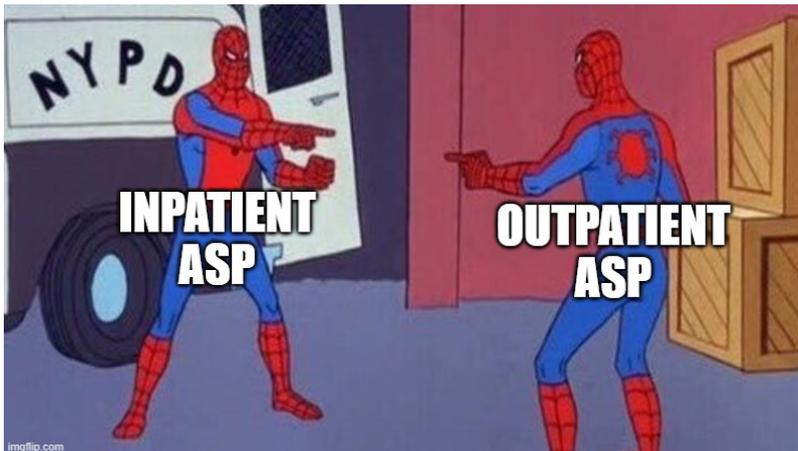
## Outpatient ASP



# Objective 1: IP vs. OP Commonalities and Differences

## • Differences...

1. Abound...
2. Include...
  - Syndromes encountered
  - Duration of encounter
  - Data availability
  - Mechanisms of intervention
  - Centrality of staff



## • Commonalities...

1. Patients
2. Antibiotics
3. C.A.R.E.
  - Commitment
  - Action
  - Reporting
  - Education
4. A HUGE burden of work
5. Human behavior

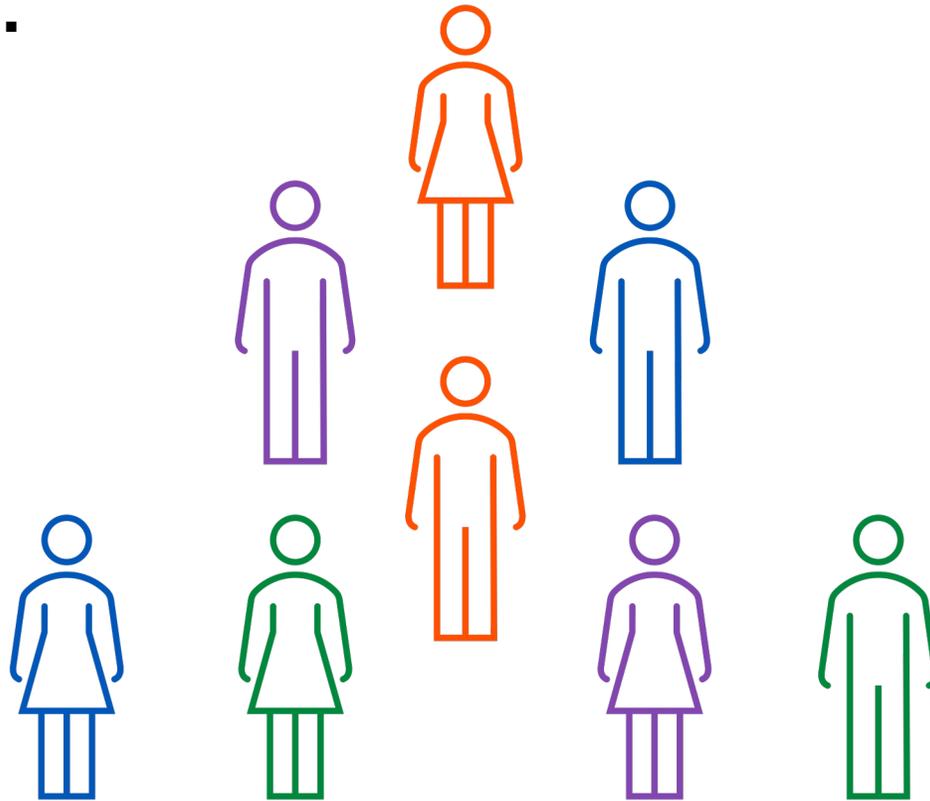
1) Relationship building  
2) Professional Networking

# Relationship Building:

A SOCIAL NETWORK IS COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUALS

## Team dynamics...

- 1) Value diversity
- 2) Facilitate teamwork
- 3) Encourage connection

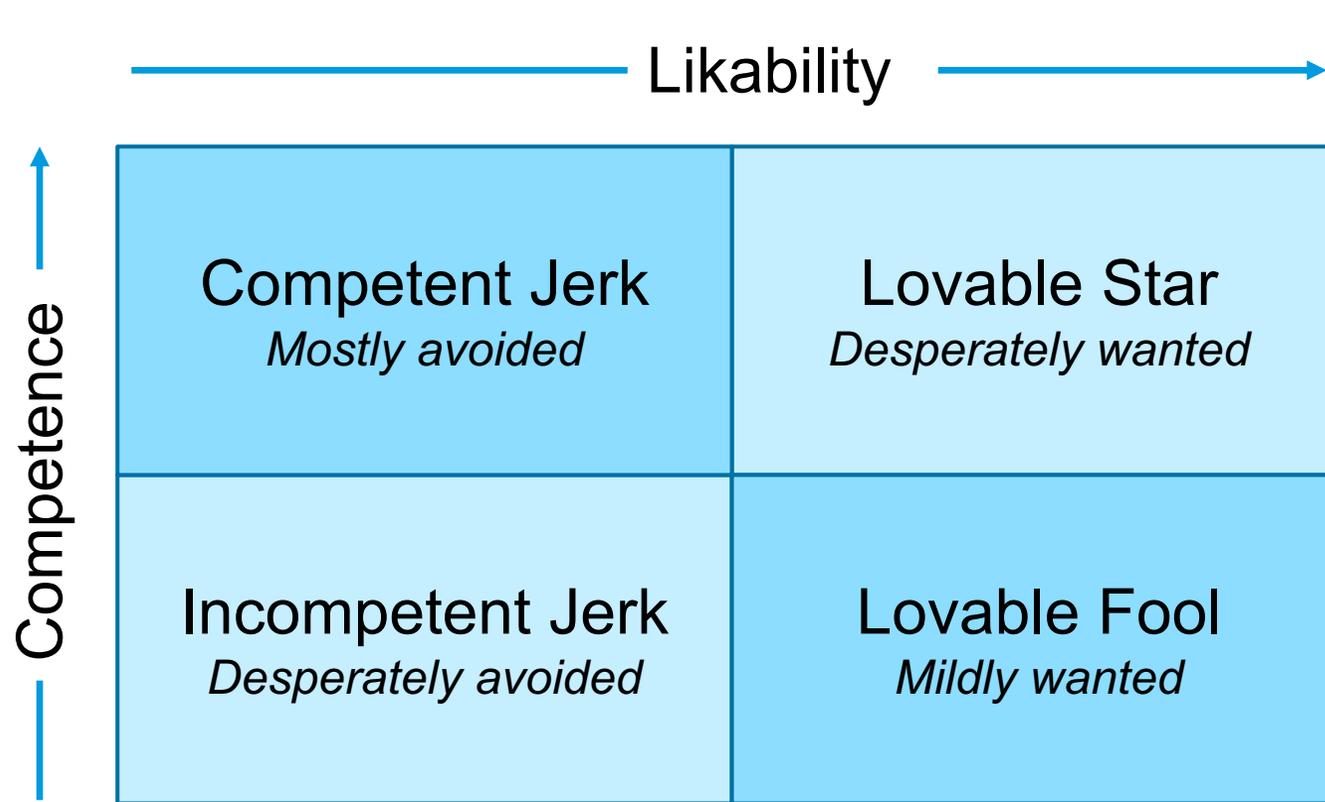


## ...Individual dynamics

- 1) Personality differences
- 2) Experience, education, or skill set differences
- 3) Different or competing interests

# Relationship Building: Competence vs. Likability

A SOCIAL NETWORK IS COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUALS



Can “likeability” be manufactured?

1. Promote familiarity
  - Facilitate proximity
  - Identify commonalities
  - Promote the “peer assist”
2. Redefine similarity
  - Build a shared goal
  - Be intentional about diversity
3. Foster bonding
  - Formal: Intense cooperative experiences
  - Informal: Casual overlap

# Relationship Building: Encouraging Phenotypic Growth

## Leverage the Likable

1. Identify them (i.e., find the hub)
2. Protect them
3. Position them strategically

### Questions to consider:

1. Who are your “hubs”? Who do people naturally gravitate towards?
2. How are you valuing the “soft contribution”?
3. Have you considered strategic positioning of your “hubs”?

## Work on the Jerk

1. Reassess their contribution (i.e., where does their individual performance meet the overall goal?)
2. Reinforce good behavior, but correct bad behavior
3. Socialize and coach them
4. Reposition them

### Questions to consider:

1. Are there highly competent members of your team that are inhibiting progress?
2. Are there “stands” that need to be taken?
3. How may some socialization, coaching, or repositioning impact overall team dynamics?

## For example...

### 1. Manufacturing likability:

- Outpatient ASP... an intense cooperative experience

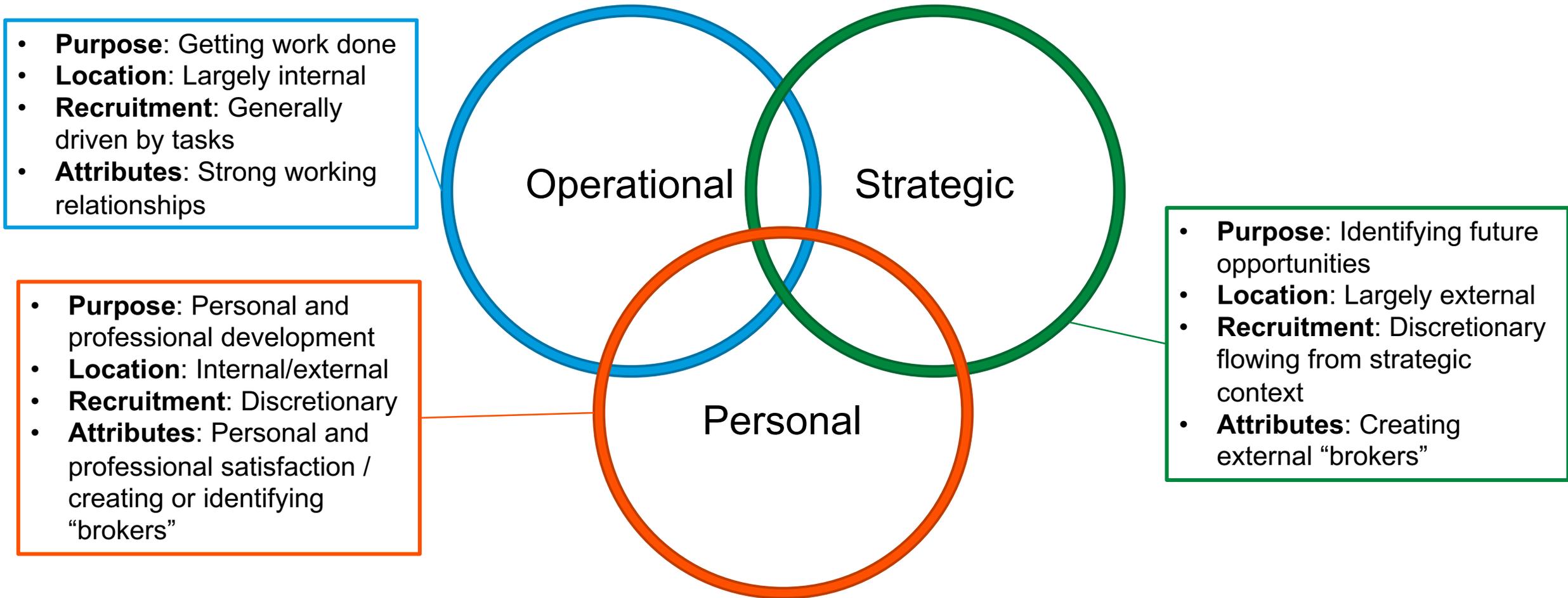
### 2. Leveraging the “likable”:

- The surgical star

### 3. Reinforcement/correct of a “competent jerk”:

- The staff meeting “wise crack”

# Professional Networking: Defining the Network



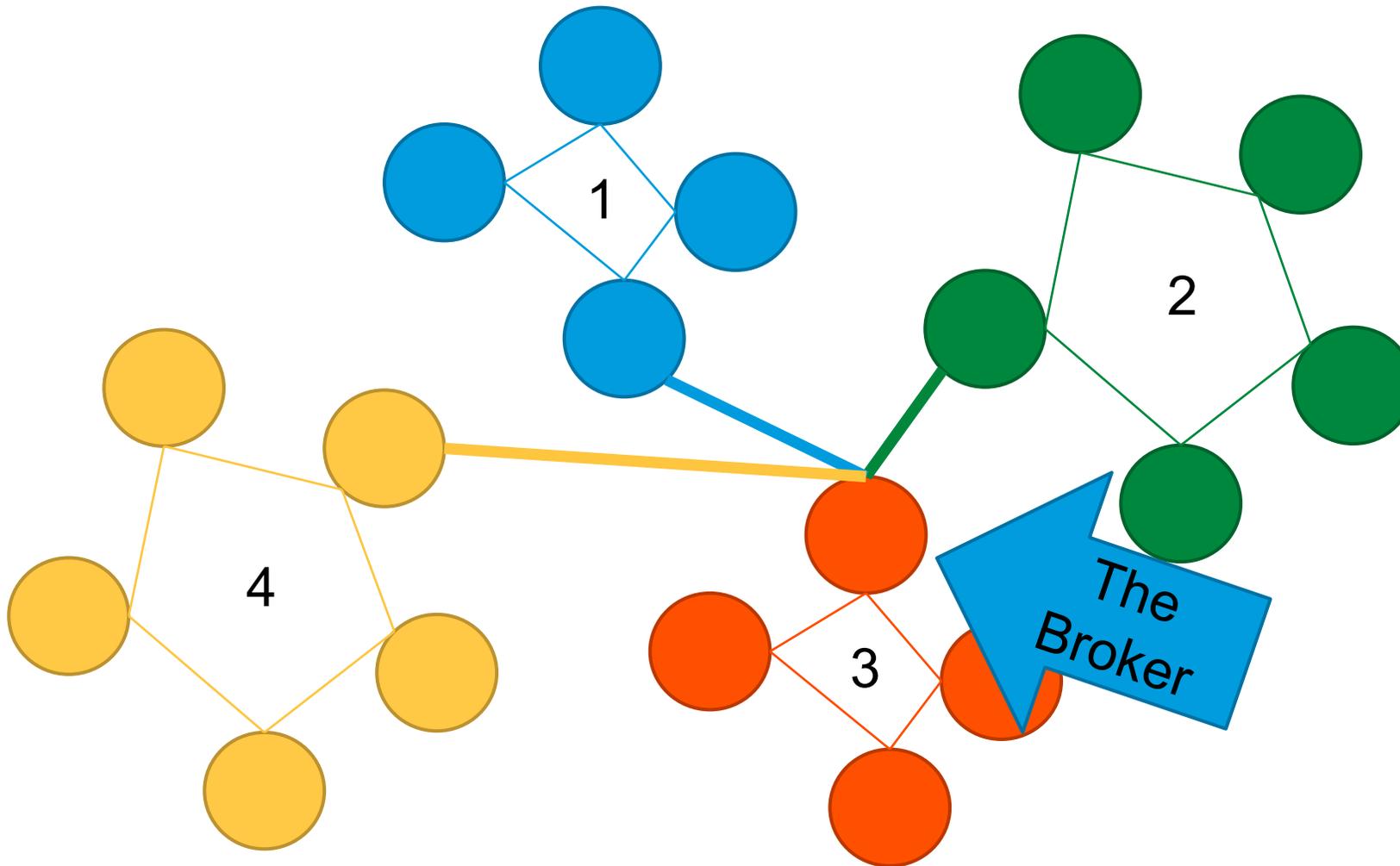
# Professional Networking: The “Broker”

## What is a broker?

Someone who occupies a key role in a network by connecting one network to another

## Where are the qualities of an effective “Broker”?

1. Respected in their network
2. Well-connected
3. Perhaps NOT in a position of authority?
4. Key = look for “lovable stars”



# Professional Networking: According to chatGPT

1. Attend professional/industry events (e.g., seminars, conferences, and workshops)
  - a) Be prepared to engage in meaningful conversations
  - b) Bring lots of business cards
2. Join professional organizations related to your industry (e.g., IDSA, SHEA, SIDP, etc.)
  - a) Organizations have built in networking opportunities, resources, training, and support
3. Build an online presence (e.g., LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.)
4. Offer to help others (e.g., share your knowledge or offer to serve as a “broker”)
5. Follow-up and stay in touch
  - a) Follow-up after making a new connection
  - b) Share relevant information/connections
6. Seek out mentors
7. Volunteer or participate in activities (e.g., committee involvement, volunteerism, presentations, etc.)

# Objective 2: Strategies to Build ASP Networks

- 1. Zoom in:** How do individual ASP members impact your ASP team dynamics?
  - How can you “leverage the likable”?
  - How can you “work on the jerk”?
  - Who are you mentoring? Who is mentoring you?
- 2. Zoom out:** Operational, personal, or strategic... which network is your strongest? Which is your weakest?
  - Who are your “brokers”?

# Relationship/Networks In Action...



ASP = Networks



Networks = Individuals



Translating networks into action

# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting



**Who:** Antimicrobial prescribers (high performers vs. low performers vs. all)



**What:** Feedback of antibiotic use and/or appropriateness of prescribing data relayed to the prescriber to allow comparison to other prescribers



**Where:** Inpatient vs. ED vs. outpatient... anywhere that antibiotics are prescribed.



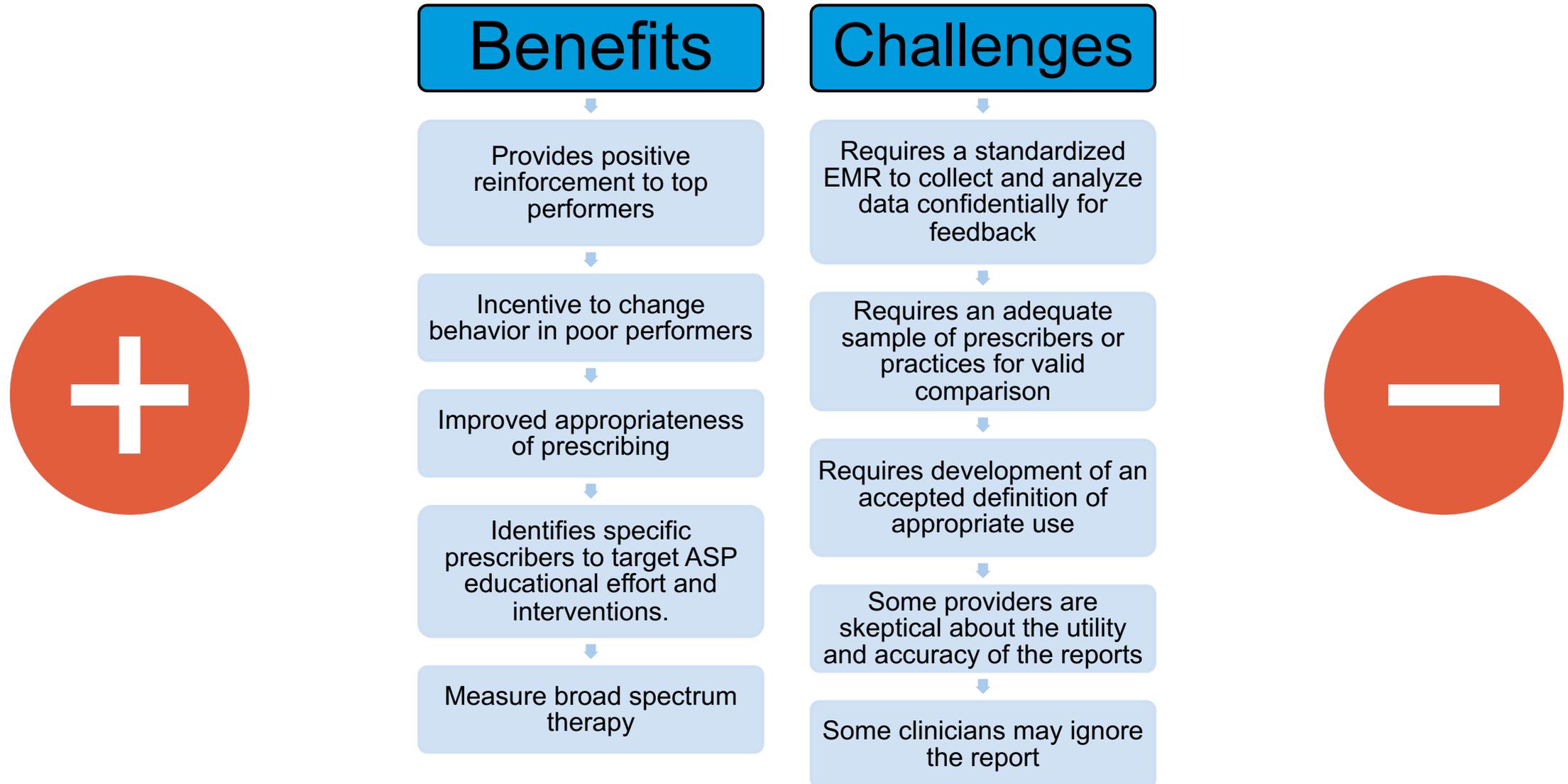
**When:** Best used in conjunction with an established goal (i.e., provision of a specific metric within antimicrobial prescribing).

## Why:



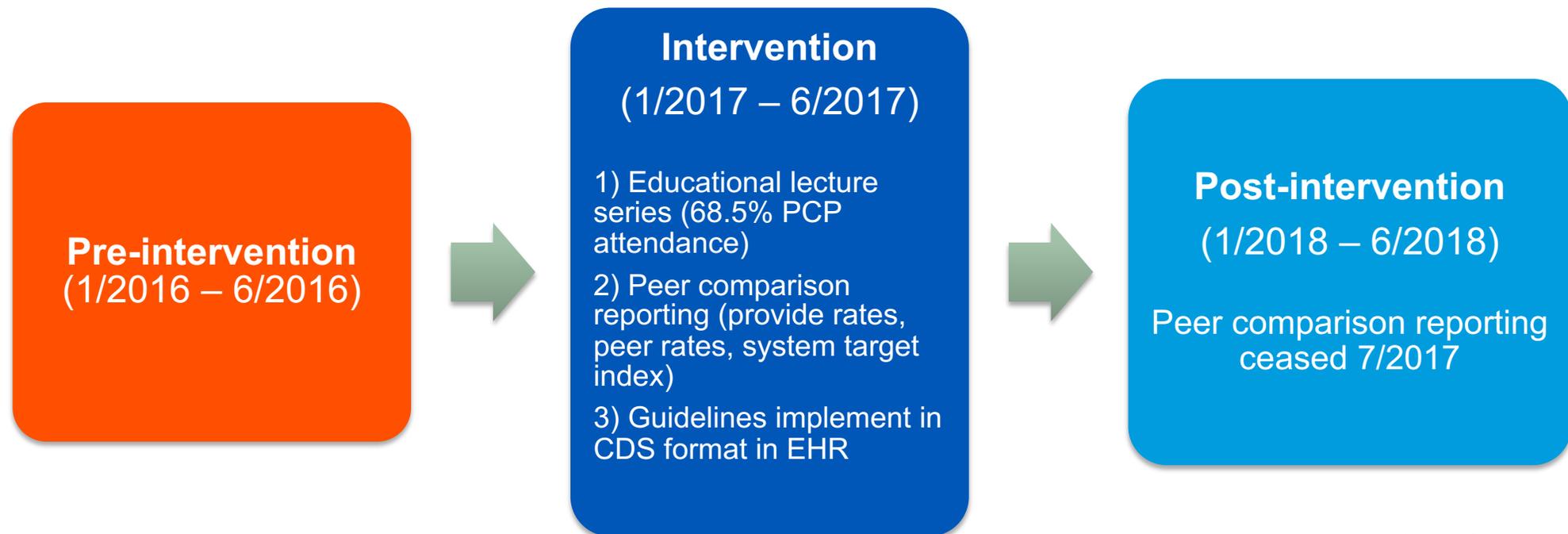
1. Everyone is competitive
2. No one wants to be a “low performer”
3. People improve when they know they are being watched

# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting



# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting

- **Objective:** Assess the impact of a multifaceted ambulatory ASP intervention including education, computer decision support order sets, and peer comparison reporting against ALL antibiotic prescribing.
- **Design:** Prospective and observational
- **Population:** Patients seen across 7 primary care clinics within the VA system
- **Intervention:**



# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting

	Pre-Intervention	Intervention	Post-intervention
Encounters	28,402	32,982	33,121
Total Antibiotic Rx	2,172	1,631	33,121
Total Antibiotic Rx Rate/1000 Visits	76.9	49.5	56.3

35.6% relative reduction (p<0.01)

26.8% relative reduction (p<0.01)

13.7% relative increase (p = 0.09)

Is there signal here?

## Conclusion:

- The bundle effectively produced:
  - Decreases in overall prescribing
  - Decreases in inappropriate prescribing
  - Increases in guideline concordant antimicrobial prescribing
- Benefits of the bundle were observed to persist for at least one year following cessation of peer comparison reporting

# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting

- **Objective:** Assess the impact of prospective audit and feedback (peer comparison reporting) in the pediatric primary care setting on outpatient antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory tract infections (ARTI).
- **Design:** Cluster randomized trial
- **Setting/population/timeframe:** 18 pediatric primary care practices 10/2008 – 6/2011 (with subsequent 18 mo. follow-up)
  - 9 practices = intervention / 9 practices = control
- **Study outcomes:** Broad-spectrum antibiotic prescribing (i.e., off-guideline prescribing) and prescribing in viral ARTI.
- **Intervention:**
  - 1-hour clinician education session (June 2010)
  - Quarterly prospective audit and feedback for 1 year (peer comparison)
- **Outcome:**

## Broad-spectrum prescribing:

Intervention = 26.8% to 14.3% (-12.5%)  
Control = 28.4% to 22.6% (-5.8%)

*Difference of differences*  
6.7 %  
( $p = 0.01$ )



## Broad-spectrum prescribing:

Intervention = Returned to 27.9%  
Control = Returned to 30.2%

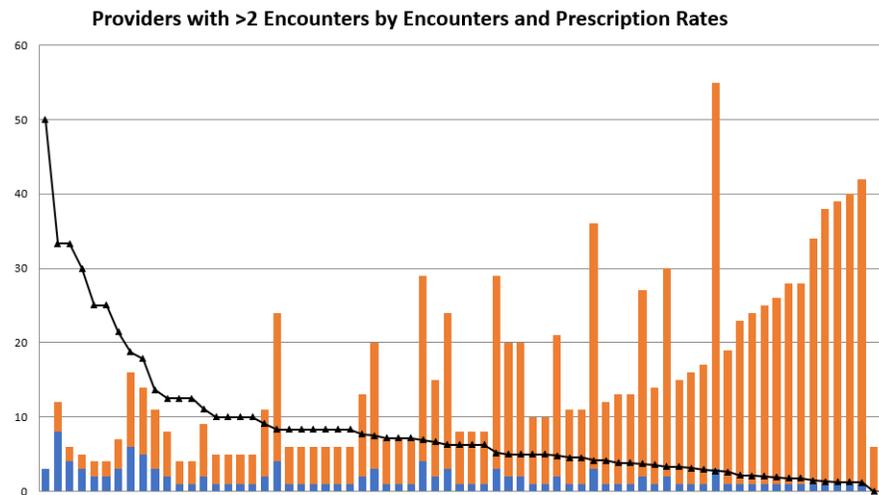
*Difference of differences*  
-6.4 %  
( $p = 0.02$ )

# Putting it Into Action 1: Peer Comparison Reporting

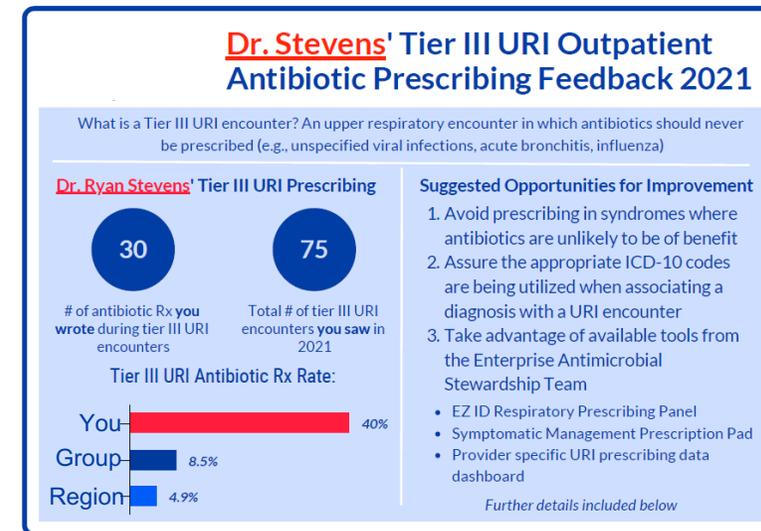
## Table

	Group	Meropenem Use (DOT/1000 Days Present)
Dr. Ryan Stevens	ID Team 1	12
Median		7
25 <sup>th</sup> percentile		5
75 <sup>th</sup> percentile		9

## Graph



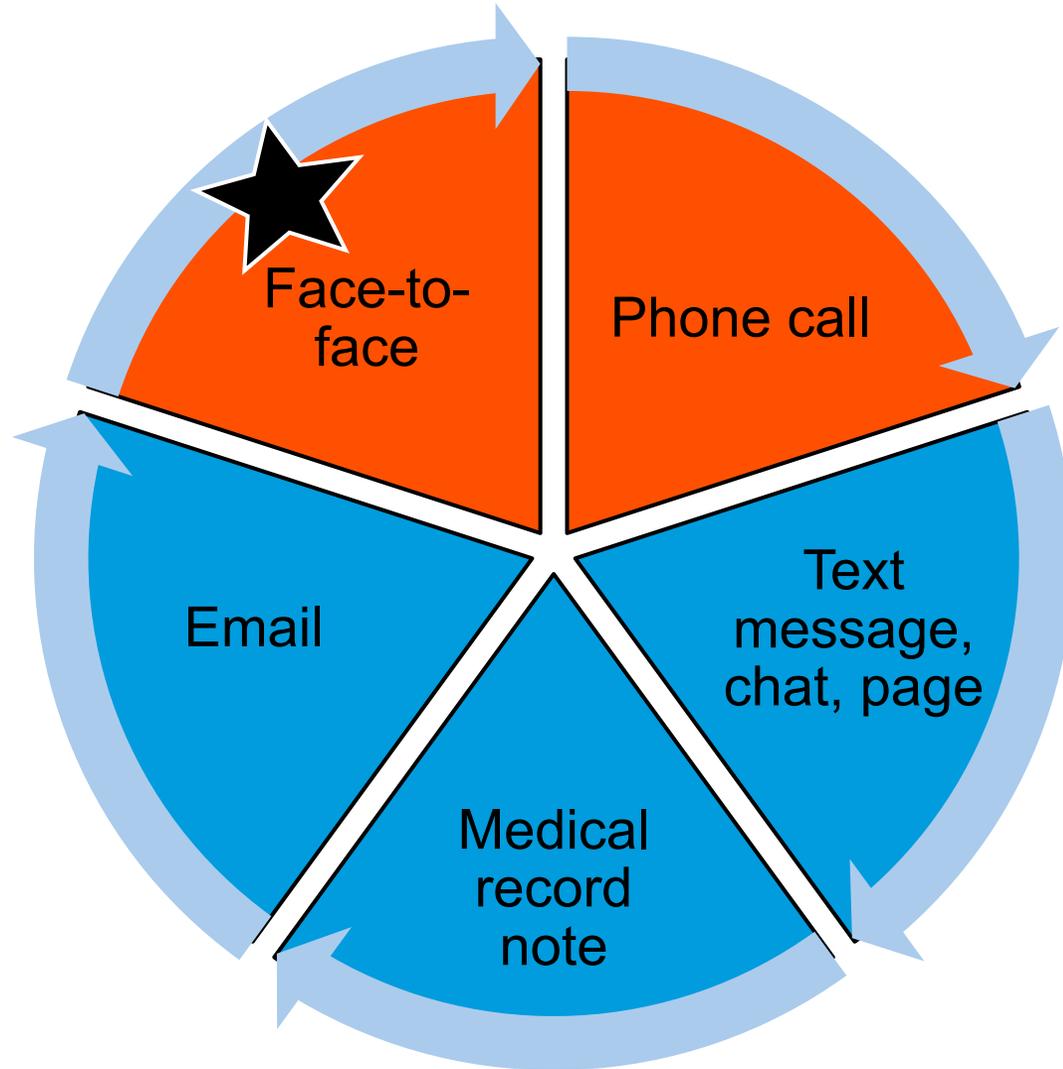
## Infographic



## How to leverage the network:

1. ASP leaders
2. Recipients of comparison report (high vs. low performers)
3. Local practice champions
4. Departmental/Divisional leaders
5. Administrators
6. Informaticists/data engineers

## Putting it Into Action 2: Handshake Stewardship



When providing ASP recommendations...

1. Method of contact can impact intervention acceptance rates
2. **Active** > **Passive**
3. Each intervention is an opportunity for **academic detailing**

# Putting it Into Action 2: Handshake Stewardship

- Coined by Children's Hospital Colorado
  - The handshake provides personal contact and signifies conveyance of trust
  - *“Handshake stewardship”: Provision of antimicrobial recommendations in person through face-to-face discussion of patient care*
- Benefits of face-to-face recommendations
  - Builds rapport/trust
  - Allows for non-verbal communication queues
  - Realization of interconnectedness around a common goal
  - Potentially higher acceptance rates?



# Putting it Into Action 2: Handshake Stewardship

## Children's Hospital Colorado Experience

### Daily Workflow

1 peds ID physician + 1 peds ID pharmacist  
review all anti-infective orders (24 and 48-72hr)  
[1 hour per steward]

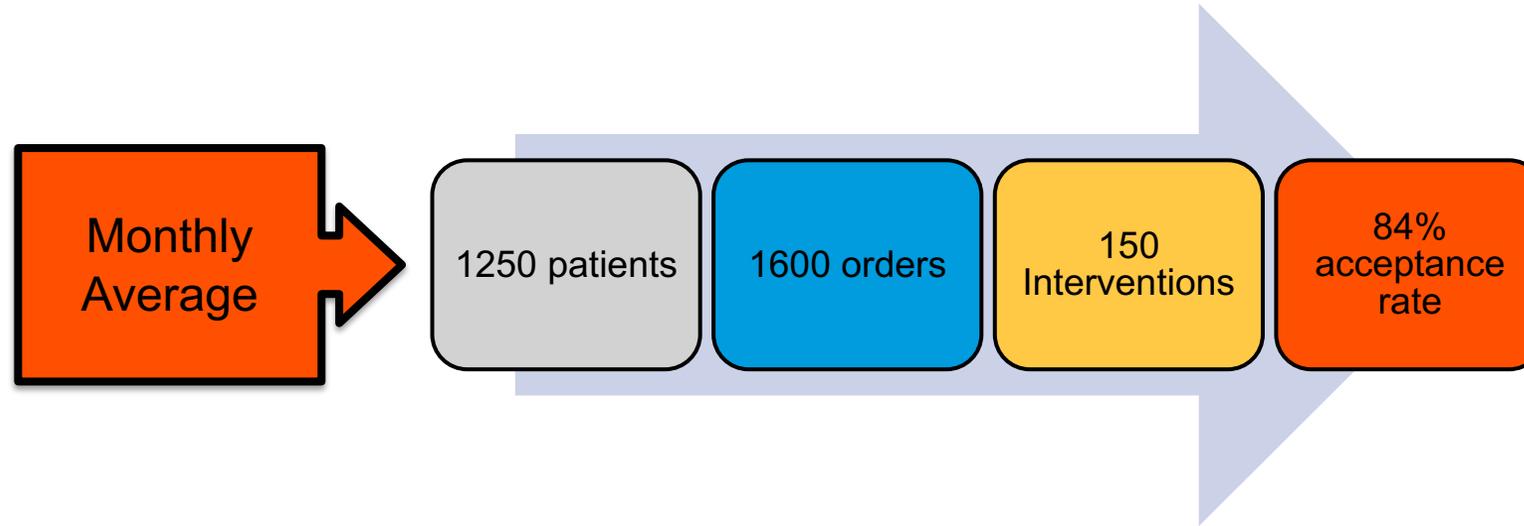
Daily meeting with microbiology, infection  
control, and infectious diseases  
[0.5 hour per steward]

Physician + pharmacist round in-person  
[21 teams total - 1.5-2 hours per steward]

\*Additionally, call positive results for  
rapid testing on blood and spinal  
fluids, during business hours

1. Rounding performed jointly (MD/PharmD)
2. Each team located in-person
3. ASP discussion/recommendations provided between patients
4. Teams are located even if no interventions were identified in order to allow for teams to ask questions

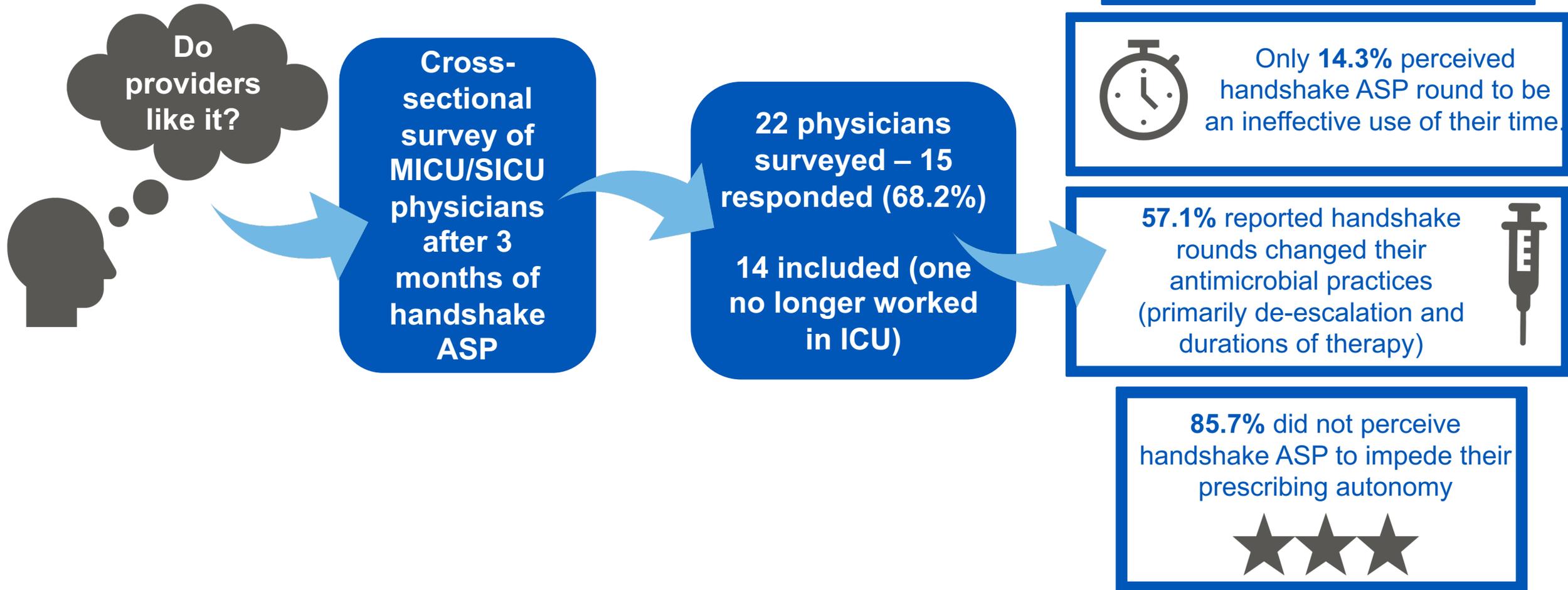
# Putting it Into Action 2: Handshake Stewardship



Antimicrobial	Pre-implementation Oct 2010 – Sept 2011 (Mean Monthly DOT/1000 PD)	Post-implementation Oct 2013 – Sept 2014 (Mean Monthly DOT/1000 PD)	<i>p</i> -value
All Antimicrobials	942 (908, 975)	839 (805, 872)	<0.01
All Antibacterials	750 (727, 772)	673 (650, 965)	<0.01
Vancomycin	105 (99, 112)	75 (72, 85)	<0.01
Meropenem	45 (39, 51)	35 (29, 41)	0.04*
Ertapenem	16 (13, 18)	1.3 (0, 3.6)	<0.01

\*No compensatory increase in antipseudomonal beta-lactams observed.

# Putting it Into Action 2: Handshake Stewardship



# Putting it Into Action 3: “Share the Wealth” ...(e.g., write about it / talk about it)

## 1. Stories we tell ourselves...

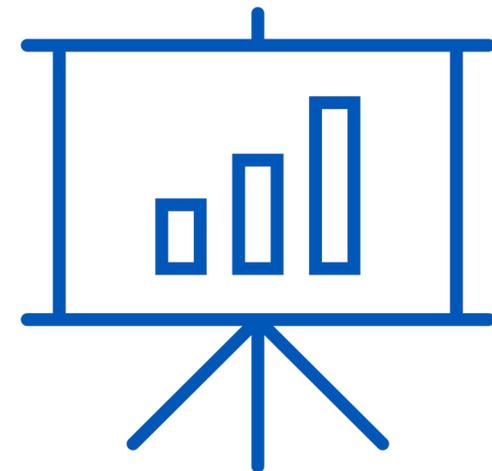
- a) I don't have the experience
- b) I am not a good public speaker / I'm not a good writer
- c) My practice is too small
- d) I don't have anything to contribute

## 2. The truth...

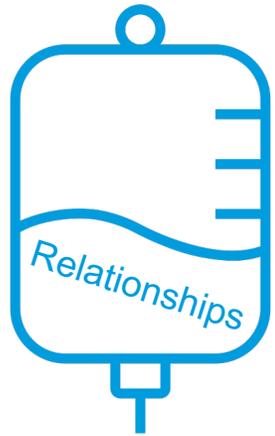
- a) Everyone had to begin somewhere
- b) Most of us begin and then begin again
- c) Every practice setting has something to offer / a story to tell
- d) The profession/specialty needs your contribution

## 3. My advice...

- a) Capitalize on your niche
- b) Find a mentor
- c) Engage your network
- d) Start with simple collaborative opportunities



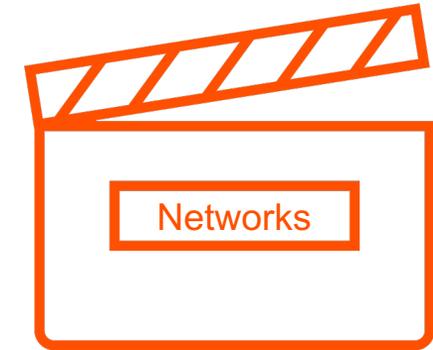
# Summary



Regardless of the setting... relationship building is critical to effective antimicrobial stewardship

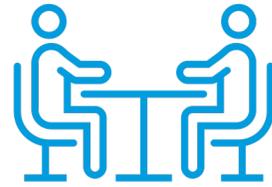


A network is made up of individuals... take time to understand individuals and be intentional and strategic about networking

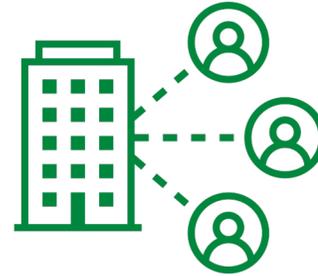


Don't separate stewardship activities from your network... find intentional ways engage and expand your network in your activities

# 90-Day Challenge...



Make a new connection



Formalize a new network



With an existing  
network... try a new  
project



Write something



Present something

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# Discussion