Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship

Antibiotics are the most important tool we have to fight infections, but when they are overused, resistance to many of these drugs increases and we may lose our ability to effectively treat certain infections.

Antibiotic stewardship programs (ASP) help ensure that children receive the right antibiotic at the right dose, at the right time, and for the right duration. These programs have been shown to reduce the development of antibiotic resistance, improve the care, and are cost effective. A general guiding principle is to use the narrowest spectrum effective agent for the shortest amount of time. Dr. Terry Dixon in the Division of Infectious Diseases is the Medical Director for our Pediatric MUSC Children’s Hospital ASP.

The elements of our ASP at MUSC include:
- A dedicated pediatric infectious diseases physician – Dr. Terry Dixon
- Monitoring antibiotic usage
- Monitoring antibiotic resistant infections
- Developing interventions to improve the use of antibiotics to reduce redundant, overly broad, or ineffective agents.