

Supplementary Material for

Sustainability of antimicrobial stewardship programs in Australian rural hospitals: a qualitative study*

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Table S1. Semi-structured interview questions

Question type	Question
Program specific	Tell me about any sustainable Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs that you have been involved in at regional, rural or remote hospitals. For the purposes of this question, sustained means a program that has been operating for at least two years.
	What do you think have been the key successes for these AMS programs?
	Describe any difficulties experienced by these AMS programs
	If you were able to make changes to the aforementioned AMS programs, what would these changes be?
General	How do you think success of an AMS program should be measured in regional/remote/rural hospitals?
	What do you think could be done to assist regional/rural/remote hospitals to run more successful AMS programs?
	Would you like add to anything else about AMS programs in the regional, rural or remote setting?

Table S2. COREQ checklist

	Item	Response	Section reported in
1	Which author conducted the interview or focus group?	JB conducted the interviews with support from TS, KB & DK.	Method
2	Credentials		See author details
3	Occupation	TS/KB= ID physician JB/DK= pharmacist	See author details
4	Gender	Reported.	Results
5	Experience and training	All authors have published qualitative research	Publications available on request
6	Relationship established	All researchers were involved in identifying potential respondents via purposive sampling. JB provided formal invitations and coordinated interviews.	Methods
7	Participant knowledge of the interviewer e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing research	JB was selected as the primary interviewer as she did not have any existing relationships with the interviewees. The semi-structured question guide included a standard introduction to describe the purpose of the research, author affiliations, the reason for the study and intended outcomes.	Methods
8	Interviewer characteristics reported about the interviewer e.g. bias assumptions, interest in topic.	The semi-structured question guide included a standard introduction to describe the purpose of the research, author affiliations, the reason for the study and intended outcomes.	Available on request
9	Methodological orientation and theory e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography	Phenomenology	Methods
10	Sampling	Sample was purposive through professional networks and contacts and snowballing was also utilised.	Methods
11	Method of approach	Sample was purposive through professional networks and contacts and snowballing was also utilised. Written consent was obtained from all participants.	Methods
12	Sample size	There were 15 participants.	Results
13	Non-participation	One respondent agreed to participate but did not undertake an interview as they moved overseas.	Discussion
14	Setting of data collection	Face-to-face and teleconference.	Methods
15	Presence of non-participants	None present	N/A
16	Description of sample	Demographic data= profession, state of practice, gender	Results
17	Interview guide	A semi-structured interview guide was prepared. There was the opportunity to revise between interviews	Supplementary materials
18	Repeat interviews	Respondents participated once	N/A
19	Audio/visual recording	Interviews were audio recorded	Methods
20	Field notes	Field notes were made during the interviews.	Available on request
21	Duration	The interviews ran for up to 60 minutes.	Methods
22	Data saturation	Data saturation was discussed by researchers and reviewed as coding was undertaken.	Methods & results
23	Transcripts returned	Transcripts were not returned for correction. Respondents could request a copy of the transcript.	N/A
24	Number of data coders	There were three data coders (JB, TS & KB)	Methods
25	Description of the coding tree	Coding guide available on request.	Available on request
26	Derivation of themes	Thematic analysis was conducted using a framework analysis.	Methods
27	Software	Nvivo v11	Methods
28	Participant checking	Participants did not provide direct feedback on the findings	N/A
29	Quotations presented	Yes	Results
30	Data and findings consistent	Yes	Results & discussion
31	Clarity of major themes	Yes	Results & discussion
32	Clarity of minor themes	Yes	Results & discussion