The Ohio State University Network for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention is designed to provide consulting and outreach services to community-based hospitals in Ohio and surrounding states. Ohio State will collaborate with hospitals by linking resources and expertise from OSU with existing infection control and pharmacy staff in outreach facilities.

At any given time, one in 20 patients in the United States has a hospital-acquired infection – leading to the loss of tens of thousands of lives and costing the healthcare system billions of dollars each year. Adding to this problem is the steady and rapid increase in antimicrobial resistance. Today’s antimicrobial-resistant infections are often more severe, leading to longer hospital stays and increased costs for treatment. As the trend toward pay-for-performance and mandatory reporting escalates, it is apparent that many hospitals could benefit from a program designed to help improve infection rates and reduce the burden of antimicrobial pathogens.

**Network goals include:**

Building a network of facilities to provide collaborative support to decrease healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance through assistance with:

- Antimicrobial stewardship implementation
- Surveillance and benchmarking of healthcare-associated infections
- Policy development
- Outbreak investigation
- Education programs
- Program development

Antimicrobial stewardship interventions have been shown to improve patient outcomes, reduce antibiotic resistance and save hospitals and health systems significant healthcare dollars. By ensuring that patients with infections are receiving the right antimicrobial medications at the right time, infection rates will be reduced with shorter hospital stays and a better quality of life for each patient. In addition, the development of best practice strategies to prevent and reduce healthcare-associated infections ensures a safer healthcare environment for the patients. The combination of antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention programs align with the national focus on prevention of conditions such as catheter-associated urinary tract infections, surgical site infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Clostridium *difficile*.

To learn more about this unique partnership opportunity, please contact Lisa Hines, RN, CIC, infection control specialist, at 614-366-9385 or by email at Lisa.Hines@osumc.edu