

**POLK MEDICAL CENTER
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
PATIENT CARE SERVICES**



TITLE: Administration of the First Dose of an Antimicrobial	Policy No.: P-PCS-06-017
Purpose: To ensure that patients receive their first dose of antimicrobial therapy in a timely manner.	Developed Date: 10/1/14 Review Date: 2/15, 10/15, 3/16, 4/17, 3/18, 7/20 Revised Date: Review Responsibility: CNO, Clinical Council, Director of Pharmacy, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Executive Committee of the Medical Staff
Reference Standards: MM.05.01.01	

Policy:

The first dose of an antimicrobial medication (antibiotic, antifungal, antiviral) is to be given within one (1) hour of the time the physician prescribes the antimicrobial. This expectation is for all patients regardless of their location within the hospital patient care setting. (i.e. ED, Inpatient, Surgical Services, etc.)

1. If the physician prescribes more than one antimicrobial, one of the antimicrobials is to be given within one (1) hour of the time the order was written. The next antimicrobial is to be given within two (2) hours of the order.
2. If the physician orders the antimicrobial(s) to be started after the collection of a culture(s), the antimicrobial(s) will be started STAT after the culture(s) is/are obtained.
3. If the physician orders an antimicrobial(s) and culture(s) simultaneously, the cultures are to be obtained first, and the antimicrobial(s) started STAT after the culture(s) is/are obtained.
4. ***If the culture(s) cannot be obtained within one (1) hour, the nurse should notify the physician for further orders.***