

November 2025

Criteria Antibiotic Smart Sweden - Regional Governance (Health-Care)

These criteria have been developed in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and professionals at the regional management level in different geographical locations in Sweden.

Formal decision

1. The region decides to work towards becoming an antibiotic-smart region.

Purpose: Support by the highest management level is a prerequisite for recognition and for achieving impact within the region. The decision to be part of Antibiotic Smart Sweden should be widely supported across multiple sectors to enable long-term engagement, regardless of political leadership.

2. The efforts to become an antibiotic-smart region are described in regional steering documents.

Purpose: To establish that the region considers the work on antibiotic resistance important for healthcare and for public health more broadly.

Coordination and organisation

3. The region has appointed a Strama group* (Antibiotic Stewardship Coordination Group) with multi-professional representation.

Purpose: A coordination group with clearly defined responsibilities will increase the likelihood of sustainability and long-term effects.

4. The region's Strama group (Antibiotic Stewardship Coordination Group) supports the region's efforts towards becoming antibiotic-smart, and coordinates and collaborates with relevant actors.

Purpose: Active support increases the opportunity for dialogue and collaboration between the region's various antibiotic-smart activities. The modalities for collaboration and resources required should be specified in order to clearly link strategy to operational activities.

Follow-up

5. The region annually follows up in one of the region's monitoring documents, and invites the Strama group (Antibiotic Stewardship Coordination Group) to report on completed work and planning for the following year.

Purpose: Following up on decisions provides clear signals to the clinics and departments that the issue is a priority. Follow-up is also important to ensure that appropriate activities have been implemented and resources have been used, as well as for measuring the effects of decisions. Being

open and clear in communications with the regional residents about the work also puts issues about infection and antibiotic resistance on the agenda for politicians, employees in the region and the public. The Antibiotic Stewardship Coordination Group should also have the opportunity to meet with the regional management once a year to present the work.

Awareness-raising in society

6. The region, together with relevant actors, carries out regular efforts to disseminate knowledge to residents about antibiotic use and infection prevention.

Purpose: To inform residents about how the region works to prevent infections, increase residents' understanding of the issue and what everyone can do.

Optional Criteria

A. Procurement of medicines: The region uses the Public Procurement Agency's sustainability criteria at a basic level for the purchase and procurement of antibiotics for inpatient care.

B. The region makes a decision whether the Public Procurement Agency's sustainability criteria at the advanced levels should be applied for the purchase and procurement of antibiotics for inpatient care.

C. Procurement of food: The region applies requirements for responsible antibiotic use in line with legislation and society's ambitions of at least 85% of procured unprocessed raw materials such as meat, poultry, eggs and milk.

D. Procurement of meal services: The region uses the same requirements for responsible antibiotic use as in the procurement of food, for at least 85% of procured meal services containing raw materials of meat, poultry, eggs and milk.

Responsible antibiotic use in line with legislation and societal ambitions. In 2017, the Swedish Parliament decided on Sweden's first food strategy. According to the strategy, it is important for the public sector to set requirements for their procured food and meal services that correspond to societal ambitions regarding environment and animal welfare.