Exploring the barriers and enablers to antimicrobial stewardship in rural health services.
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Background
Local level research about antimicrobial use is important to tailor interventions in a place-based approach to solve local level problems.

Method
Medical Practitioners and Senior Nurses at three small rural health services were invited by email to participate in interviews to explore opinions and practices of antimicrobial prescribing.

Results
Seven Medical Practitioners and thirteen Senior Nurses participated in the study.
Nurses were perceived as the ‘gatekeepers’ to antimicrobial initiatives by all participants.
Senior Nurses perceived antimicrobial stewardship activities as being a link in a world-wide program to eradicate antimicrobial resistance.
Medical Practitioners perceived antimicrobial stewardship activities as a local level program, aimed at educating individual prescribers.
There was consensus that an intervention aimed at improved documentation and increased accessibility to antimicrobial prescribing guidelines had a high potential to increase compliance with optimal prescribing of antimicrobials.

Conclusion
The research enabled the identification of acceptable interventions aimed at increasing optimal compliance with antimicrobial prescribing guidelines.