



September 22, 2015

Bruce Gellin, Designated Federal Official
Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Room 715H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Gellin:

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) appreciates the opportunity to offer our expertise, insight, and opinion regarding skin disease; specifically, avoiding, identifying, and treating fungal, viral, and bacterial skin infections, some of which are life threatening. NATA is a professional organization serving more than 40,000 certified athletic trainers, students of athletic training, and other health care professionals. Our mission is to represent, engage, and foster the continued growth and development of the athletic training profession and athletic trainers as unique health care providers. Athletic trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries. NATA has released guidelines for skin disease prevention as well as a position statement, published in the July 2010 issue of the *Journal of Athletic Training*, outlining recommendations on prevention, education, and management, or treatment, of fungal, viral, and/or bacterial skin infections.¹ Our position statement is summarized below:

Prevention

To ensure infection-control is preserved, organizational support is necessary to ensure adequate hygiene materials are provided to athletes and health care professionals; good hygiene practices are promoted to all athletes and staff; and a clean environment is maintained. Infection-control policies should be included in an institution's policies and procedures manual and employees must be held accountable should there be a breakdown in infection-control policies.

Education

Coaches, athletes, and custodial staff must be educated about infection-control policies and procedures; good hygiene practices; the individual role in minimizing the spread of infectious diseases; and the correct manner in disinfecting facilities.

Management

Proper diagnosis and treatment of fungal infections, viral infections, and bacterial infections is a critical component in slowing and preventing additional skin infections among athletes.

We greatly appreciate that a commitment is being made to improve patient outcomes in the bacterial infections arena and appreciate the opportunity to share our recommendations on this topic. Given our national reach, we are eager to serve as a resource to the Department of Health and Human Services and work with you to explore policy initiatives aimed at reducing the emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. If we can answer any questions you may have, please feel free to contact me (amyc@nata.org, 972-532-8853).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Sailor', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott Sailor, EdD, ATC
NATA President

¹National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Skin Diseases <http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/position-statement-skin-disease.pdf>