



Dedicated To Long Term Care Medicine

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Jacqueline Vance
jvance@amda.com
410-992-3105**

November 16, 2011

AMDA Partners with CDC on “Get Smart About Antibiotics Week”

Columbia, MD--The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with AMDA—Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine and other groups for “Get Smart About Antibiotics Week,” November 14-20, 2011. This event is designed to create a broad public awareness of the appropriate use of antibiotics across care settings.

Antimicrobial resistance among respiratory pathogens has become a common clinical concern and the antibiotic resistance has been documented in various settings. As the CDC website says, “The Institute of Medicine has identified antibiotic resistance as one of the key microbial threats to health in the United States and has listed decreasing the inappropriate use of antimicrobials as a primary solution to address this threat. For this reason, antibiotic resistance is among CDC’s top concerns.” The correct use of antibiotics has long been a priority for the CDC. In 1995, the agency launched the National Campaign for Appropriate Antibiotic Use in the Community. In 2003, CDC renamed this program “Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work” in conjunction with the launch of a national media campaign.

In a blog to be posted on the CDC website, AMDA Clinical Affairs Director Jacqueline Vance, RNC, said, “We believe that medical directors of long term care facilities can have enormous impact on appropriate antibiotic use.” She went on to list several activities designed to ensure correct antibiotic usage in this care setting, including appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that patients are only started on antibiotics when necessary, establishing criteria for defining infections and antibiotic initiation, and auditing antibiotic usage. Blogs by Ms. Vance and other experts on various antibiotic resistance/usage topics will be available at <http://blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/>.

As part of “Get Smart About Antibiotics Week,” CDC also will publish a wide array of special information, including when antibiotics work, antibiotic questions and answers, and antibiotic “fast facts” (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/>). Additionally, the “Get Smart” campaign page (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/campaign-materials/index.html>) includes print materials such as brochures and posters, treatment guidelines for upper respiratory tract infections, radio and TV materials such as a virtual press kit, and online materials such as podcasts related to the “Get Smart” messages.

“AMDA is pleased to partner with the CDC on this important issue. We have long promoted appropriate antibiotic use and urged the medical director to take a leadership role on this in

long term care,” said AMDA President Karyn Leible, RN, MD, CMD. She added, “We believe that communication and accurate, up-to-date information on this topic for physicians and other interdisciplinary team members, as well as patients and family members, are essential.”

In addition to AMDA, other program partners include the Administration on Aging, American Public Health Association, American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Hospital Association, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and Society of Hospital Medicine. The CDC has several regional partners in New Jersey, Virginia, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and other states.

* * * * *

AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care (formerly the American Medical Directors Association) is the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and other professionals practicing long term care medicine committed to the continuous improvement of patient care. AMDA provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development to enable its members to deliver quality long term care.