



NEWS RELEASE

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CDC Recognizes AMDA for Role in Immunization Promotion

Columbia, Md. – The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded AMDA (as part of the National Influenza Vaccine Summit) with the “Excellence in Partnering” award. David Nace, MD, CMD, from the University of Pittsburgh was AMDA’s key liaison to the summit, which was held earlier this year.

In a congratulatory letter to AMDA, the CDC said, “Concerted efforts by the summit have resulted in expanded influenza vaccine coverage by increasing public and medical professional awareness of influenza and its complications and the benefits of vaccination. The summit’s efforts have also contributed to increased investment influenza vaccination by community vaccinators, pharmacies and other complementary vaccine providers....” These activities, said the letter, “would not be possible without the work of many partners and stakeholders who participate in the summit. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.”

“AMDA has long made promotion of immunizations for long term care facility residents and staff a priority. We currently are working with our members to promote a 90% immunization rate for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines among facility residents,” said AMDA President Karyn Leible, RN, MD, CMD. She added, “Education is an important part of this, and we have produced numerous tools to help medical directors and other team leaders communicate the importance of immunizations to staff and dispel myths and misunderstandings.” Most recently, the AMDA House of Delegates passed a revised position statement on “Mandatory Immunizations for Long Term Care Workers.” This references AMDA’s support for a mandatory influenza vaccination for “every long term health care worker who has direct patient contact unless a medical contraindication for religious objection exists.”

Among the immunization promotion tools available from AMDA is an “Influenza Immunization and the Health Care Worker” DVD, in which nationally recognized immunization expert Dr. Gregory Poland breaks down myths and misperceptions that keep staff from getting immunized. The DVD features health care workers speaking frankly and peer-to-peer about why they get immunized and why others should follow suit.

The summit involved health care practitioners, public health professionals, consumers, vaccine manufacturers and distributors, and others interested in preventing vaccine-preventable diseases. AMDA is one of 400 summit members representing public and private organizations with an interest in resolving influenza and vaccine issues.

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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.