



Dedicated To Long Term Care Medicine

NEWS RELEASE

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AMDA Partners with Mayo Clinic's Dr. Gregory Poland on Flu Webinar

Columbia, Md. – As flu season approaches, immunization of long term care facility (LTCF) practitioners, staff, and residents can help prevent the spread of disease and save lives. AMDA—Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine continues to strongly urge all health care personnel (HCP) to get vaccinated annually for seasonal influenza as a preventive measure. New to AMDA's arsenal of tools is a webinar on "Influenza Immunizations in Long Term Care," set for Tuesday, October 25th. The program will offer information for the entire care team about the importance of immunization, vaccination facts and statistics, and myths and misperceptions about immunizations that may keep people from getting vaccinated.

This new webinar program will feature nationally recognized immunization expert, Gregory Poland, MD, Director of the Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group, a state-of-the-art research group and laboratory that investigates issues surrounding vaccine response, vaccine policy, and novel vaccines important to public health. Dr. Poland also is a Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Immunization Clinic and the Program in Translational Immunovirology and Biodefense at the Mayo Clinic. Additionally, he is Editor-in-Chief of *Vaccine*.

The webinar is just one component of AMDA's ongoing campaign to encourage immunization in long term care. Additionally, AMDA has several tools designed to help medical directors and their teams. These include the "Immunizations in the Long Term Care Setting."

"AMDA has long supported facilities' efforts to maximize immunization of both residents and health care workers. Facility staff wants to do the right thing and they care about the health and safety of their resident, but sometimes they don't understand why they should get immunizations and the potential implications if they don't," says AMDA Executive Director Lorraine Tarnove. She adds, "We are pleased to offer a web-based program to increase health care worker education and knowledge that ultimately will result in higher immunization rates."

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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.