



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelly Haywood, Communications Coordinator
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care
800 SW Jackson St., Suite 700
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 273-2552 x 360 | khaywood@kfmc.org

September 28, 2017

Healthcare Providers Take Part in Quality Initiative to Improve Antibiotic Use

More than 2 million infections and 23,000 deaths occur each year due to antibiotic resistance.¹

Topeka, Kan. – 186 Kansas outpatient provider settings have recently committed to become good stewards of antibiotics towards the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. The primary goal of the national action plan is to slow the emergence of resistant bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections.

Why is this important?

Antibiotic resistance is among the greatest public health threats today, leading to an estimated 2 million infections and 23,000 deaths per year in the United States¹. At least 30% of outpatient antibiotic prescriptions in the United States are unnecessary². Antibiotic stewardship is the effort to measure antibiotic prescribing, improve practices to prescribe antibiotics only when needed, improve misdiagnoses or delayed diagnoses leading to underuse, and to ensure the right drug, dose, and duration when an antibiotic is needed. The goal of stewardship is to maximize the benefits of antibiotics while minimizing harm to individual persons and communities.

Kansas providers are participating with other providers throughout the region to become good stewards of antibiotics. These committed partners will work together to discuss and spread the principles of antibiotic stewardship. Recruited partners include community health centers, emergency departments, pharmacies, physician offices, public health clinics, outpatient clinics and urgent care centers. Antibiotic stewardship programs are designed to strategically approach, monitor, reduce and prevent misuse and overuse of antibiotics in healthcare settings. Establishing effective antibiotic stewardship interventions can protect patients and improve clinical outcomes in outpatient healthcare settings. Using antibiotics—in people and in animals—can create drug resistance.

“Many people go to their medical provider with viral illnesses expecting to receive an antibiotic to make them feel better, but don’t understand that the antibiotic they are seeking has absolutely no impact on a virus. Antibiotics cause one out of five emergency department visits for Adverse Drug Events (ADEs). The goal of this initiative is to implement strategies outlined in the CDC Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship, with the expectation that we can reduce the number of unnecessary antibiotics prescribed in Kansas and reduce some of the potential harm caused by them. We are not saying that antibiotics are bad, but that we all (consumers and prescribers) need to be better stewards of the use of them,” stated Great Plains QIN Project Manager, Nadyne Hagmeier, RN.

The Antibiotic Stewardship initiative is facilitated by the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (GPQIN), the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and

South Dakota. Education, tools and resources, along with best practice strategies and evidence-based resources are available at www.greatplainsqin.org. Great Plains QIN will offer technical assistance to aid all participants to implement what they have learned. Participating providers will benefit from educational and collaborative sessions led by quality improvement experts. Opportunities for networking, learning and sharing across organizations will be made available.

Participants include:

ABC Medical Practice, Anderson County Hospital, Augusta Family Practice, Basehor Family and Urgent Care, Central Kansas Family Practice, Chase County Health Department, Cherryvale Family Medical Clinic, Children's Mercy Hospital-South Campus, Clara Barton Hospital and Medical Clinics, Clay County Health Department, Clay County Medical Center and Family Physicians, Comanche County Hospital and Medical Clinic, Cotton O'Neil Clinics and Express Care, Dighton Pharmacy, Edwards County Medical Center, Eudora Family Care, F.W. Huston Medical Center and Pharmacy, Family Center for Health Care, Family Medicine of Baldwin City and Tonganoxie, Gove County Medical Center, Graham County Hospital Clinic, Great Bend Regional, Harper Hospital District #5 and Rural Health Clinic, Heartland Regional Health Clinic, Hillsboro Community Hospital, Holton Community Hospital, Holton Family Practice Associates, Independence Family Medicine, Irwin-Potter Pharmacy, Jayhawk Pharmacy, Kinsley Health Clinic, Kiowa District Hospital and Clinic, Labette Health and Family Practice, Lane County Hospital and Medical Clinic, Lawrence Memorial Hospital and Clinics, Logan Medical Clinic, McLouth Medical Clinic, Meade District Hospital and Rural Health Clinic, Miami County Medical Center, Midway Clinic, Minneola District Hospital and Community Clinic, Mitchell County Hospital Health System, Morris County Hospital, Mt. Oread Family Practice, Muddy Creek Family Practice, Neodesha Family Medicine, Neosho Memorial Regional Hospital and Clinics, Ness County Hospital and Clinic, Newman Family Medicine, Norton County Hospital and Medical Clinic, Olathe Medical Center, Philips County Access Care and Medical Clinics, Philips County Health System, Plains Rural Health Clinic, Rawlins County Health Center and Clinic, Regional Wound & Hyperbaric Center, Republic County Hospital, Rooks County Hospital and Walk In Clinic, Rush County Memorial Hospital and Medical Clinic, Russell Regional Hospital and Hospital Physicians Clinic, Russell Family Medical Clinic, Sabetha Community Hospital and Family Practice Clinic, Satanta District Hospital and Clinic, Satanta Retail Pharmacy, Smith County Memorial Hospital and Family Practice Clinic, South Central Kansas Regional Medical Center and Clinics, St Luke's Health System and Clinics, Stevens County, Stormont-Vail Health and Pharmacy, Sublette Clinic, Susan B Allen Memorial Hospital and Clinics, The Internal Medicine Group, Total Family Care, Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital, University of Kansas Hospital, Via Christi Clinics and Pharmacy – Wichita, Vohs Pharmacy, Wilson Medical Center, Winchester Medical Clinic, Wolkar Drug.

What you can do to help with antibiotic resistance:

- Ask if there are steps you can take to feel better and get relief without using antibiotics
- Take antibiotics exactly as prescribed
- Safely discard any leftover medication
- Get recommended vaccinations

What you should not do:

- Never take antibiotics for viral infections. Antibiotics do NOT cure viral infections, such as colds, flu, most sore throats, most coughs and bronchitis ("chest colds"), many sinus infections and many ear infections
- Never pressure your doctor to prescribe antibiotics
- Never skip doses or stop taking an antibiotic early
- Never save antibiotics for the next time you become sick and do not take antibiotics prescribed for someone else

1. CDC. Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013 [internet]. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2013.
2. Fleming-Dutra KE, Hersh AL, Shapiro DJ, et al. Prevalence of inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions among U.S. ambulatory care visits, 2010-2011. *JAMA* 2016;315:1864-73.

About Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.

The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC) is a not-for-profit organization focused on improving healthcare quality. KFMC is a member of the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) serving Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. KFMC is also the Regional Extension Center (REC) and External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) for the state of Kansas. In addition, we contract with many private companies to provide health information technology (HIT) consulting services, quality improvement and review services. Throughout various contracts, our role is to work with healthcare providers and organizations to develop ways to improve the use of HIT and the quality of healthcare provided to all Kansas healthcare consumers. To learn more, visit kfmc.org.

###