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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Topeka, Kan.** – US Antibiotic Awareness Week is an annual-one-week observance that gives participating organizations an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of appropriate antibiotic use to combat the threat of antibiotic resistance. Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) is using this week to bring awareness to their #OneHealthKS campaign. The One Health concept builds bridges between physicians, veterinarians, environmental scientists, and public health professionals. The One Health Initiative aims to “promote, improve, and defend the health and well-being of all species.”<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention define One Health as multiple disciplines and professions working locally, nationally and globally to achieve optimal health in the human, animal and environmental domains. A One Health approach is important because 6 out of every 10 infectious diseases in humans are spread from animals.

Dr. Michael Apley, Professor at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, stated “We have resistance challenges in Veterinary Medicine concerning multiple species. These pose the same issues as in human medicine where we must make decisions for empirical therapy with the concern that the first therapy won’t work. Just like in human medicine, we can benefit from increased diagnostics, the availability of specialists and improved availability of prevention products.”

KFMC is asking Kansas healthcare providers to take the #OneHealthKS pledge and commit to working on efforts within their organization related to appropriate use of antibiotics. The Pledge can be found at the [Kansas HAI/AR Advisory Group: Kansas Quality Improvement Partnership site](#).

A “Top 5 Questions to ask your healthcare provider about Antibiotics” toolkit consisting of a flyer and wallet card has been developed to begin engaging consumers in this conversation as well. Provider organizations can order these and other free resources from KFMC. To do so, please contact Nadyne Hagmeier, [nhagmeier@kfmc.org](mailto:nhagmeier@kfmc.org).

“If we all work together, we can preserve the crucial resource that antibiotics are,” said Nadyne Hagmeier, RN, Quality Improvement Consultant, Kansas Foundation for Medical Care.

#### **About Kansas Foundation for Medical Care**

Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (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) for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. KFMC is also the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) and Independent Review Organization (IRO) 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,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html>

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.

KFMC also educates consumers so they can make informed decisions about healthcare. We work to ensure Medicare and Medicaid patients receive appropriate and quality healthcare. For more information visit, visit [kfmc.org](http://kfmc.org)

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For more information, visit [cdc.gov/flu](http://cdc.gov/flu)