

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-02-01  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality**

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05/17/17

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Antibiotic resistance is a serious health issue leading to infections that do not respond to antibiotic medications. Antibiotic use which is not carefully thought out and does not follow established guidelines, especially overuse and misuse, is one of the most important factors for developing antibiotic resistance. Antimicrobial stewardship programs are being implemented worldwide because they are effective in optimizing antimicrobial therapy, and improving patient safety and quality of care.

The efforts of community-based providers are central to a comprehensive approach to combat this serious issue within the healthcare systems that serve millions of patients throughout the nation. We are asking you to work in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by employing a community-based antibiotic stewardship approach based on the CDC Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship.

The QIN-QIOs are leaders in healthcare quality improvement across the nation and stand ready to assist you in efforts to implement antibiotic stewardship in your settings. We encourage your healthcare facility to partner with our QIN-QIOs to work on implementing comprehensive antibiotic stewardship programs.

Additional information on the QIN-QIO program is available at: <https://qioprogram.org>. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Dennis Wagner, MPA

Director, Quality Improvement and  
Innovation Group, CMS

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Chief Medical Officer for Quality  
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