



Press Release

7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-664-8875

CONTACT: Shana Martin
ASHP Advantage
PHONE: 850-279-3138 E-MAIL: smartin@ashpadvantage.com
WEB: www.ashpadvantage.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ASHP Advantage Launches National Educational Initiative on Implementing Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Health Systems

BETHESDA, MD, May 31, 2011 – ASHP Advantage has launched a multifaceted, interprofessional initiative to improve antimicrobial use in health systems. This initiative is designed to educate pharmacists, physicians, and nurses about implementing or augmenting antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) in their institutions.

Antimicrobial resistance due to inappropriate antibiotic use has become a major public health problem. Hospital-acquired infections, mortality, prolonged hospital lengths of stay, and increased health care costs are among the potential consequences of inappropriate antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance. Pathogens that are resistant to currently available antibiotics have emerged. Antimicrobial stewardship—the appropriate selection, dosing, route of administration, and duration of antimicrobial therapy—prevents or slows the emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

The initiative, featured at www.LeadStewardship.org, was developed by a multidisciplinary educational steering committee comprised of experts in antimicrobial stewardship and infectious diseases and is supported by educational grants from Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc., Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Pfizer, Inc.

Educational activities include a tiered curriculum featuring on-demand, home study activities focusing on the basics of ASPs, as well as live interactive webinars on enhancing stewardship programs. Visitors to the web portal will be able to sign up to become an antimicrobial steward, register for educational activities, and access resources including evidence-based guidelines, and other helpful tools.

Institutional Impact Antimicrobial Stewardship Mentored Initiative

Practitioners can also nominate their health system to be selected as one of five health systems to benefit from the Institutional Impact Antimicrobial Stewardship Mentored Initiative. Pharmacist mentors with expertise in antimicrobial stewardship and quality improvement tactics will visit selected health systems to evaluate antimicrobial stewardship practices and provide specific recommendations to enable the participants to meet their antimicrobial stewardship improvement goals. Applications are now available at www.LeadStewardship.org. The application deadline is July 12, 2011.



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For more information about this educational initiative, visit www.LeadStewardship.org.

About ASHP Advantage

Launched in 1995, ASHP Advantage specializes in developing customized educational activities to address identified educational gaps. As a division of ASHP, ASHP Advantage staff members stay apprised of key issues and trends shaping pharmacy practice and health care today. With access to the vast resources of ASHP and its membership, ASHP Advantage designs quality programs and projects for health care professionals. For more information about the services of ASHP Advantage, visit www.ashpadvantage.com.

About ASHP

For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists help people make the best use of medicines, visit ASHP's Web site, www.ashp.org, or its consumer Web site, www.SafeMedication.com.

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