GET SMART – KNOW WHEN ANTIBIOTICS WORK WEEK
November 16-22, 2015

WHEREAS, antibiotics are a powerful and important defense against bacterial infectious
diseases, but bacterial strains are emerging that are increasingly resistant to available antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic-resistant infections, a problem nationally and globally, plague more
than 2 million people each year in the United States, and 25,000 of these infections are fatal; and

WHEREAS, resistance to antibiotics increases the length and complexity of medical treatment
and escalates the cost of health care by an estimated $30 billion annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the rise in antibiotic resistance is exacerbated by overuse and misuse of
antibiotics in humans and animals and poor infectious disease prevention and management; and

WHEREAS, increasing antimicrobial stewardship is critical to slowing the rate of antibiotic
resistance; and

WHEREAS, it is important to protect people and animals by preserving the strength of
antibiotics and maintaining the effectiveness of these valuable drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in collaboration with the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention, academic institutions, physicians, health plans, medical centers and
public health organizations, is working with health providers, public health professionals, farmers,
parents, students, and children to increase awareness about antibiotic stewardship.

THEREFORE, in an effort to protect all Pennsylvanians, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim NOVEMBER 16 – 22, 2015, as GET SMART –
KNOW WHEN ANTIBIOTICS WORK WEEK and encourage all citizens to educate themselves, their
families, and their communities about best practices regarding the use of antibiotics.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the
Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this
twenty-sixth day of October in the Year of our
Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the
Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.

TOM WOLF
Governor