

In This Issue

- Get Smart Kids' Art Competition Winners
- Get Smart Week 2014
- Get Smart Program Begins Collaboration with Capital Blue Cross
- National Influenza Vaccination Week December 8-14

In The News

[Ebola is scary, but antibiotic resistance should scare us more](#) – The Guardian

[Department of Health Sponsors Children's Art Competition in Recognition of Get Smart About Antibiotics Week](#) – PR Newswire

[Get Smart About Antibiotics Week](#) – Digital Journal

Second Annual Get Smart Kids' Art Competition Winners!



The second annual Get Smart Kids' Art Competition has come to a close. Thank you to all participants and those who helped us spread the word about the competition. Winners' entries are now available at KnowWhenToSayNo.org.

We would like to thank our judges for taking time to vote for their favorites. This year's judges were: Annie Beer, Highlight's Children Magazine; Lauren Torso, Allegheny County Health Department; Judith Kinman, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Nicole Hackman, Penn State Hershey Medical Center; Dr.

Christopher Carr, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Tyson Brown, National Science Teachers Association.

We are happy to announce the winners of this year's competition:

Ages 10-12:

- 1st place: Sydney Grimm, Dillsburg
- 2nd place: Kaeden James Rhoads, Lancaster

Ages 8-9:

- 1st place: Eliana Maneval, Richfield
- 2nd place: Sarah Weinstein, Harrisburg

Ages 6-7:

- 1st place: Abby Landis, Quarryville
- 2nd place: Sophie Swidler, Camp Hill

Ages 5-6:

- 1st place: Marcus Graeff, Harrisburg
- 2nd place: Chloe DeBiase, Berlin

Ages 4 and under:

- 1st place: Ellie Beda Vogt, Harrisburg
- 2nd place: Vincent Graeff, Harrisburg



Get Smart Week 2014



In addition to the announcement of the winners of the Kids' Art Competition, the Department of Health in collaboration with key partners sponsored two events in celebration of Get Smart Week.

On November 13th, the Department of Health hosted a seminar, which highlighted a collaborative initiative at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Guillermo Sanchez, CDC Program Officer, and Dr. Bonnie Falcione, an infectious disease pharmacist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, were featured presenters in the seminar. They provided an overview of Get Smart Week and learned lessons from the community pharmacist activities.

A second seminar was held on November 19th at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. This seminar highlighted antimicrobial stewardship initiatives at Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. After an overview of Pennsylvania's response to the threat from increased resistance to antibiotics by Dr. Nkuchia M'ikanatha, lead epidemiologist, Dr. Michael Katzman, Director of the Antibiotic Stewardship Program at the Hershey Medical Center, showed how Get Smart activities benefits patients, healthcare institutions, and overall public health. Each year, the program at Hershey saves over \$500,000 in avoided costs for unnecessary antibiotics. In addition, Dr. Katzman led all present residents and fellows in taking an appropriate antibiotic pledge. Dr. George McSherry summarized activities at the Children's Hospital.



Get Smart Program Begins Collaboration with Capital Blue Cross



Judicious use of antibiotics in clinical settings can optimize prescriptions of antimicrobials to improve patient care, reduce unnecessary costs and result in overall public health benefit by slowing the rapid increase antimicrobial resistance. Health plans and health networks can play a crucial role in promoting antimicrobial stewardship in collaboration with state-based Get Smart Programs as it has been demonstrated in several jurisdictions, for example, California and Michigan. Recently, Capital Blue Cross announced a new collaboration with the Pennsylvania Get Smart Program.

"Antibiotic resistance is growing as a global concern, and Capital BlueCross is pleased to be working with the PA Department of Health to address this issue. In partnership with the health care community, we are committed to delivering alternate and appropriate solutions to help Pennsylvanians live healthy," said Dr. Jennifer Chambers, Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer.

The aim of the collaboration is to support antimicrobial stewardship in health care settings by strengthening the dissemination of current clinical guidelines, particularly in primary care settings. The dynamic of antimicrobial use in primary care settings is complex with physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners having the responsibility of prescribing patients antibiotics at their discretion. Most likely this may explain some of the inconsistencies in prescribing practices among providers. These inconsistencies in prescribing practices among the providers may explain why patients are sometimes confused concerning appropriate use of antibiotics. This collaboration will increase education on antimicrobial stewardship guidelines to medical providers and allow for a standardization of prescribing practices within the offices. This initiative will also allow clinicians to educate their patients on the appropriate use of antibiotics and explain when antibiotics are appropriate and when they are not.

National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 8-14



Flu season has arrived and we are reminded of the importance of this vaccination by the CDC's National Influenza Vaccination Week from December 8th to 14th. With the flu season, the risk of unnecessary antibiotic prescribing practices heightens.

It is not too late to get vaccinated. While vaccines are not on many lists of favorite things, frequent family events during the holidays makes it all the more important to protect your loved ones from the flu. Pregnant women, children under five years of age (especially those under two years of age), adults older than 65 years old, and those with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma or cancer, are at an increased risk of developing serious flu-related complications.

Share the importance of this annual vaccination with your friends and family. The vaccine can be conveniently administered by your local pharmacist and comes in a shot and nasal spray form. Everyone is susceptible to the flu, but to some, it can be deadly.

To find your closet vaccination site, visit http://www.flu.gov/stay-connected/vaccinelocator_2011.html.

If you have any ideas for future newsletters or would like more information please feel free to contact us. To unsubscribe please email us.
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