

## Skilled Nursing Facility Physician ASP Notification Letter

To our valued physicians,

As a long-term care (LTC) provider, we aspire to provide our residents with the highest level of quality resident care. To accomplish this goal, we depend on our physicians and other healthcare partners to provide care that adheres to best practices following current recommended evidence-based standards.

In our efforts to comply with all state and federal regulations we, LTC providers, are responsible for overseeing the use of antimicrobial medications prescribed for our residents in accordance with the CMS Interpretive Guidelines for Long-term Care Facilities released September 30, 2010. These guidelines mandate that we periodically review antibiotic utilization, and when necessary, discuss the appropriateness of some of the antibiotics prescribed. It is not our intention to tell our physicians how to treat their patients but only to review those residents who may be receiving antibiotics without established indication. Because of increases in multi-drug resistant organisms and *Clostridium difficile* infections in the healthcare setting, antibiotic review is an essential aspect to an infection prevention and control program.

In California, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 361 into law on October 10, 2015. This law states that on or before January 1, 2017 each skilled nursing must adopt and implement an antibiotic stewardship policy.

We are asking all physicians who provide care to residents at our facility to use antibiotics prudently and only when their patients manifest clinical signs of an active infection. Physicians should review lab tests ordered for their patients and correlate clinical symptoms with the test results. Diagnosing infection is a clinical skill and relies upon more than just microbiological information.

The California Department of Public Health, Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program encourages all healthcare providers to incorporate antibiotic stewardship principles into their practice. This letter is intended to inform our physicians that our facility intends to implement and practice antibiotic stewardship to the best of our ability and hope you will join us as we engage in conversations about the appropriateness of antibiotics for our residents.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Your support is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Administrator

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Medical Director

For more information about this example contact Dolly Greene, RN, CIC at [Dolly.Greene@diaglabs.com](mailto:Dolly.Greene@diaglabs.com)

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