VHA Inc. Participates in White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship

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IRVING, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship, held on June 2 in Washington, D.C., brought together key stakeholders to discuss strategies to improve antibiotic use and prescribing in the U.S. VHA Inc. participated in the invitation-only event as a stakeholder who supports efforts that encourage the appropriate use of antibiotics through antibiotic stewardship programs in the health care setting.

The goal of the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship[1] is to help support the implementation of its comprehensive five-year plan to combat the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The company was represented by Kristi Kuper, PharmD, BCPS, clinical pharmacy manager. "It was an honor to participate in the White House Forum and provide information on barriers to implementing antibiotic stewardship in health care facilities and to help shape the action plan that will be formed to overcome those existing barriers," said Dr. Kuper.

"Antibiotic stewardship plays a key role in the safety and quality of a patient’s care. In the future, hospitals’ reimbursement will potentially be influenced by their performance to key antibiotic stewardship metrics based on national guidelines. VHA’s participation in the White House Forum reflects our expertise in antibiotic stewardship and our continued commitment to helping our members develop and implement programs that help them effectively administer and manage antibiotic prescribing in their facilities," said Dr. Kuper.

VHA Inc., which recently combined with UHC to form the largest member-owned health care company in the country, is well positioned to help their members to support, coordinate, and sustain programs that help hospitals manage appropriate antibiotic use. The organization’s commitment to this area includes sharing industry-leading best practices, providing active assistance with the development of successful programs, educating members on key infectious diseases topics, and using institutional data to drive a change in practice.

Dr. Kuper has worked on stewardship initiatives in more than 250 hospitals across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, with a specific emphasis on resource-challenged settings, participated in several advisory boards on antibiotic stewardship programs through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and Centers for Disease Control sponsored expert panels, and authored numerous publications on antimicrobial stewardship and microbial resistance testing. Additionally, Dr. Kuper is an active member of several infectious diseases medical and pharmacist societies and was recently appointed to a three-year term to serve on the Society of Health Care Epidemiology of America’s antimicrobial stewardship task force.

For additional information related to the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship visit:

- CDC Feature: Improving Antibiotic Use[7]

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About VHA Inc.

Effective April 1, 2015, VHA, the national health care network of not-for-profit hospitals, and UHC, the alliance of the nation’s leading academic medical centers, combined into a single organization. The combined organization includes Novation, the health care services company they already jointly own. The new entity is the largest member-owned health care company in the country and is dedicated to leading health care innovation, creating knowledge and fostering collaboration to help our members.

The company serves more than 5,200 health system members and affiliates as well as 118,000 non-acute health care customers. Members range from independent, community-based health care organizations to large, integrated systems and academic medical centers, and it represents more than $50 billion in annual purchasing volume. Headquarters are in Irving, Texas, with locations in Chicago and other cities across the United States. A new name for the combined organization will be announced in Jan. 2016.

Language:
English

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