

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

# CDC STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF APPROPRIATE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

To raise awareness of the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and about the concern of antibiotic resistance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed the Get Smart About Antibiotics Week campaign to be held Nov. 16 through 22.

According to the CDC, antibiotics are the most commonly prescribed drugs in health care today. What's more alarming is that up to 50 percent of all antibiotics prescribed are not needed — such as in the case of antibiotics being prescribed to patients with cold viruses.

We encourage you and your patient care staff to access the [online resources](#) that the CDC has made available to health care providers and consumers on the Get Smart About Antibiotics Week site. You can also access these and other CDC online resources about antibiotics by visiting the *Quality Management Partners in Quality Tool Kit* on Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia's online Provider Resource Center, under the Resource Center's *Clinical Reference Materials* link.