

Announcements

Get Smart About Antibiotics Week — November 18–24, 2013

Antibiotics are an essential tool to treat bacterial infections, but inappropriate use of these drugs has promoted antibiotic resistance and compromised their effectiveness. Health-care providers prescribed an estimated 258 million courses of antibiotics to outpatients in the United States in 2010 (1). Among respiratory conditions for which antibiotics are rarely indicated (e.g., colds and bronchitis), half of ambulatory care visits result in a prescription for antibiotics, most of which are for broad-spectrum antibiotics (2).

In acute care hospitals, each year approximately half of all patients admitted receive an antibiotic, and nearly 50% of antimicrobial use in hospitals is unnecessary or inappropriate (3). Drug-resistant infections are on the rise among hospitalized patients, and options for antibiotic treatment are now severely limited or sometimes nonexistent.

November 18–24, 2013, is Get Smart About Antibiotics Week, an annual observance to coordinate the work of CDC's Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work and Get Smart for Healthcare programs, state-based appropriate antibiotic use campaigns, nonprofit partners, and for-profit partners during a week-long observance on antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use. Information on scheduled activities and how to participate during the observance week is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart>.

References

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3. Dellit TH, Owens RC, McGowan JE, et al. Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America guidelines for developing an institutional program to enhance antimicrobial stewardship. *Clin Infect Dis* 2007;44:159–77.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims — November 17, 2013

Road traffic crashes kill nearly 3,500 persons each day and injure or disable 50 million each year around the world (1). Road traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among persons aged 10–24 years worldwide and the leading cause of death among those in the first 3 decades of life in the United States. CDC has declared road traffic injuries a “winnable battle” and supports efforts at the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO) to dedicate 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2).

The Decade of Action was launched in May 2011 in approximately 100 countries, with the goal of preventing 5 million road traffic deaths globally by 2020. In October 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for governments and nongovernmental organizations to mark the third Sunday in November each year as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (3). The observance was created to recognize persons injured or killed in road traffic crashes and the plight of relatives and others who must cope with the emotional and practical consequences of these events.

CDC, WHO, and the UN Road Safety Collaboration encourage governments and nongovernmental organizations worldwide to commemorate November 17, 2013, as the World Day of Remembrance to draw the public's attention to road traffic crashes, their consequences and costs, and prevention measures. The theme of this year's observance is “From Global Remembrance to Global Action Across the Decade.” Ancillary materials are available to provide organizations with action strategies to support victims and survivors (4). Practical guidance for persons or groups on how to plan and organize events on this day is available from WHO at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594527_eng.pdf.

Additional information about the World Day of Remembrance is available at <http://www.worlddayofremembrance.org>. Additional information about CDC's motor vehicle injury prevention activities is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles/motorvehicleinjury>.

References

1. World Health Organization. Global status report on road safety 2013. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2013. Available at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2013.
2. CDC. Launch of Decade of Action for Global Road Safety—May 11, 2011. *MMWR* 2011;60:554.
3. United Nations General Assembly. Resolution 60/5: improving global road safety. New York, NY: United Nations; 2005. Available at <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/roadsafe/docs/A-RES-60-5e.pdf>.
4. World Health Organization. Advocating for road safety and road traffic injury victims: a guide for nongovernmental organizations. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2012. Available at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/ngo_guide.