



1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771
P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
<http://www.cclho.org>

PHONE: 916.440.7594
FAX: 916.440.7595
Leah.Northrop@cdph.ca.gov

Leah Northrop, MPA, MAIS
Executive Administrator

August 28, 2015

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue, Suite 73.720
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Officers

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President
Alameda County

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
President-Elect
City of Berkeley

Bela Matyas, MD, MPH
Treasurer
Solano County

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MSc
Secretary
Sacramento County

Karen Milman, MD, MPH
Legislative Coordinator
Sonoma County

Kenneth Cutler, MD, MPH
Regulations Coordinator
Nevada County

Wilma Woolen, MD, MPH
Past President
San Diego County

Directors-at-Large

Connie Caldwell, MD, MPH
Yolo County

Lou Anne Cummings, MD, MPH
Sutter County

Cameron Kaiser, MD
Riverside County

Mark Lundberg, MD, MPH
Butte County

Edward Moreno, MD, MPH
Monterey County

Maxwell Ohikhuare, MD
San Bernardino County

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
Marin County

RE: SB 361 (Hill): Antimicrobial Stewardship: Education and Policies - Support

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board of Directors voted to recommend a position of support for SB 361 (Hill), which requires the development of guidelines to expand antimicrobial stewardship to skilled nursing facilities. This policy change would promote the judicious use of antimicrobials in a setting with vulnerable populations and would take effect immediately as an urgency statute once passed.

The use of antibiotics is the most important factor in the development of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial stewardship programs aim to promote and measure use of the appropriate agent, dose, duration, and route of administration of antimicrobial agents, in order to improve patient outcomes while minimizing adverse events including toxicity, Clostridium difficile infections and the emergence of antimicrobial resistant organisms. Antimicrobial stewardship programs improve the quality of patient care and patient safety, and can also reduce excessive costs attributable to inappropriate antimicrobial use. This practice is important in acute care settings as well as long term care facilities.

Existing law establishes the Hospital Infectious Disease Control Program, which requires the department and general acute care hospitals to implement various measures relating to the prevention of health care associated infection. The program required that each general acute care hospital adopt and implement an antimicrobial stewardship policy by July 1, 2015, in accordance with guidelines established by the federal government and professional organizations, that also includes a process to evaluate the judicious use of antibiotics.

This bill would require that, on or before January 1, 2017, each skilled nursing facility, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 1250, adopt and implement an antimicrobial stewardship policy that is consistent with antimicrobial stewardship guidelines developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, or similarly recognized professional organizations.

As you know, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) is an organization of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions established in statute in 1947 to consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health.

If you have questions, please contact me at Muntu.davis@acgov.org or at 510-267-8010. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers