

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Muenster Memorial Hospital Joins Important Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Antibiotic Stewardship Project

Promoting patient safety by reducing the spread of antibiotic-resistant infections

Muenster Memorial Hospital is one of 482 facilities in Texas participating in the TMF Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) antibiotic stewardship (ABS) project. This Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) quality improvement initiative will promote the appropriate use of antibiotics, improve patient outcomes and decrease the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms. These efforts will be focused at the point of care, where antibiotics are prescribed.

Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed drugs and save millions of lives each year. However, widespread, long-term use has led to an alarming rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria that, in the U.S. alone, [cause 2 million illnesses and 23,000 deaths each year](#).

As part of the project, Muenster Memorial Hospital is working with the TMF QIN-QIO, a CMS contractor, to form an interdisciplinary team at its facility that will incorporate into practice the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship, which provide a framework for improving antibiotic prescribing. The team will oversee the development and implementation of ABS prescribing policies and/or practices, review their effectiveness and make modifications, as needed.

"We commend Muenster Memorial Hospital for making antibiotic stewardship an organizational priority," said Susan Purcell, BS, RN, CPHQ, TMF QIN-QIO project director. "With this significant interdepartmental participation and collaboration, MMH's team will work to ensure that staff and patients receive appropriate ABS education; identify and address barriers to change; and evaluate and report progress toward goals."

The 22-month ABS initiative was launched in September 2017. Jessica Bowman, R.N., heads the program for MMH.

About the TMF QIN-QIO

Led by TMF Health Quality Institute in Texas and Oklahoma, in partnership with the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Primaris in Missouri and the Quality Improvement Professional Research

Organization, Inc. in Puerto Rico, the TMF QIN-QIO is a collaborative effort to accomplish better care and better health for people and communities as well as more affordable care through quality improvement. <https://www.tmfqin.org/>

About TMF Health Quality Institute

TMF Health Quality Institute focuses on improving lives by improving the quality of health care through contracts with federal, state and local governments, as well as private organizations. For more than 40 years, TMF has helped health care providers and practitioners in a variety of settings improve care for their patients. www.tmf.org



The infographic is set against a dark blue background and is divided into two main sections by a vertical dotted line. The left section features a yellow caduceus icon at the top. Below it, the text reads: "ANTIBIOTICS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST 1 OUT OF 5 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR ADVERSE DRUG EVENTS". The numbers "1" and "5" are significantly larger than the other text. The right section features three light green icons: a baby in a blanket, a girl, and a boy. Below these icons, the text reads: "ANTIBIOTICS ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR ADVERSE DRUG EVENTS IN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE."