

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-030

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE  
4 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR THIS  
5 PROPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT  
6 THE STATE.

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8 WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship refers to systematic efforts to  
9 optimize the use of antibiotics in order to maximize the benefits to patients  
10 and minimize the rise of antibiotic resistance and adverse effects to  
11 patients from unnecessary antibiotic therapy; and

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13 WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship involves identifying the microbe  
14 responsible for a disease, selecting the appropriate antibiotic, dosing,  
15 route, and duration of the antibiotic therapy, and discontinuing the  
16 antibiotics when antibiotics are no longer needed; and

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18 WHEREAS, several studies have found that antibiotic stewardship  
19 programs reduce the percentage of antibiotic-resistant organisms in a  
20 facility, reduce the occurrence of C. difficile infections, improve patient  
21 outcomes, decrease toxicity, and reduce pharmacy costs; and

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23 WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship programs are not widespread throughout  
24 the United States, with only fifty percent (50%) of hospitals in the United  
25 States implementing antibiotic stewardship programs, and few states have  
26 statewide implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs; and

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28 WHEREAS, only one (1) state, California, has enacted legislation to  
29 require each general acute care hospital to adopt and implement an  
30 antimicrobial stewardship policy that includes the judicious use of  
31 antibiotics; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has established the  
34 Georgia Honor Roll for Antibiotic Stewardship for facilities that participate  
35 in efforts to encourage and promote antibiotic stewardship; and

1           WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas does not have an antibiotic stewardship  
2 program throughout the state; and

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4           WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should support efforts to improve  
5 patient outcomes, reduce antibiotic-resistance, and reduce healthcare costs,

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7 NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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11           THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on  
12 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor this proposal to encourage antibiotic  
13 stewardship programs throughout the state.

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15           BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Department of Health and  
16 the Department of Human Services provide assistance to the House Committee on  
17 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to encourage antibiotic stewardship  
18 programs.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Representative David Whitaker  
25 District 85

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28 By: JMB/JMB  
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