



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ASHP Advantage Launches National Initiative on Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies in Health Systems

BETHESDA, MD, February 3, 2011 –ASHP Advantage has launched an initiative to educate hospital-based physicians and pharmacists about existing risk evaluation and mitigation strategies (REMS) for medications administered in a hospital or components of a health system. This initiative is designed to prepare physicians and pharmacists for REMS provisions required by the FDA and explain their implications for health care professionals.

Since the law that authorized REMS went into effect in March of 2008, the number and complexity of REMS have increased significantly. There are currently over 150 medications that require REMS by the FDA. Physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals are responsible for understanding specific requirements of approved REMS programs and ensuring the successful implementation of REMS to facilitate the intended goals of improving medication safety while allowing patients' access to the medications necessary to treat their medical conditions.

The initiative, featured at www.remsupdates.org, was developed by a multidisciplinary steering committee comprised of pharmacists and a physician with expertise in REMS and is conducted in partnership with the Society of Hospital Medicine and supported by an educational grant from Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc.

An online learning portal features links to a variety of educational activities including live, interactive webinars accredited for continuing education for pharmacists and physicians. Visitors to the Web portal will be able to access on demand a web-based home study activity, register for regional educational symposia, and access REMS resources including podcasts, e-Newsletters, an online discussion guide, and other essential links. In addition, participants can use a "Talk to Us" feature to submit questions and share the impact of how REMS is impacting practice in health systems.

For more information about this educational initiative, visit www.remsupdates.org.



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About ASHP Advantage

Launched in 1995, ASHP Advantage specializes in developing customized educational activities to address identified educational gaps. As a division of ASHP, ASHP Advantage staff members stay apprised of key issues and trends shaping pharmacy practice and health care today. With access to the vast resources of ASHP and its membership, ASHP Advantage designs quality programs and projects for health care professionals. For more information about the services of ASHP Advantage, visit www.ashpadvantage.com.

About ASHP

For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists help people make the best use of medicines, visit ASHP's Web site, www.ashp.org, or its consumer Web site, www.SafeMedication.com.

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