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Issued : 04/26/2007



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Volume: 35 | No: 16

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Estancia HomeCare receives CMS certifications and credentials from NAHC

Estancia HomeCare Inc., a local home health agency founded in 2003, received certifications as a provider by the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services and the founder & president of the agency, Milton L. Cruz, was granted credentials as a Certified Home / Hospice Care Executive by the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC). The certification qualifies the agency as a provider of home care services to Medicare beneficiaries in Carolina, Trujillo Alto, Canóvanas and Loíza.

"We are extremely pleased to credential Cruz as a certified home and hospice care executive. His success in passing the certification exam and professional standard requirements demonstrates how his education, knowledge and experience promote quality leadership in home care and hospice," said Val J. Halamandaris, president of NAHC.

This certification program was created in 1996 to establish and maintain a uniform performance standard for home care and hospice executives and to strengthen industry leadership through continuing education and professional development.

Estancia provides clinical and nonclinical homecare services and is licensed by the Health Department. It currently has more than 50 healthcare professionals providing skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social work, nutrition and assisted living services.

FDA approves Altabax by GlaxoSmithKline for impetigo; antibiotic expected to arrive late May

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has approved the antibacterial Altabax, made by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), for the topical treatment of impetigo due to susceptible strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Streptococcus pyogenes*, the two most common types of bacteria in this kind of infection. The antibiotic is expected to arrive on the island in late May.

Altabax is the first in a new class of antibacterials called pleuromutilins and is approved for the treatment of impetigo. It inhibits protein synthesis through an interaction with ribosome that is unique to the pleuromutilin class.



Altanax is indicated for use twice a day for a five-day period in patients nine months of age and older. The antibiotic is the product of GSK research and development. GSK is one of the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies.

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