

THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

Quarterly Report from Pharma-Care, Inc., Health Care Consultation Specialists

Fourth Quarter 2012

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State Survey Results of LTC Facilities: Recorded Trends

Our review of the last quarter State Surveys identifies the following areas as having been frequently cited:

Unit Inspections

- Department of Health surveyors are checking medication units including carts, refrigerators, and other storage areas on the very first day of survey. This means that units should be audited daily by someone in-house for compliance - especially refrigerators and items that need to be dated when opened. (See chart at right.)

Dialysis Patients

- Department of Health surveyors are targeting the MARs of dialysis residents because nurses are signing for medication times that coincide with dialysis. Be sure to adjust medication times for dialysis. *For example, you cannot sign for a medication at 10:00 am on Tuesday if the resident is at dialysis on Tuesdays from 7:00 am to 12 noon.*

Electronic MAR Systems

- Make sure that cautionaries are accurately put into the electronic MARs system. *For example, Claritan Redi-Tabs must be administered on an empty stomach one (1) hour before or two (2) hours after meals, whereas regular Claritan does not require this.*
- Make sure that the medication in the medication cart matches the medication transcribed on the MAR. *For example, if the pharmacy sends Zoloft 100mg tablets, the MAR should read Zoloft 100 mg -NOT- two tablets of Zoloft 50 mg.*
- This also holds true for therapeutic interchange items. *For example, Protonix printed on the MAR but Omeprazole found in the medication cart.*

NJ Long-Term Care Leaders Coalition Annual Conference

October 4, 2012 8:30am - 4:15pm

\$125

Crowne Plaza, 390 Forsgate Drive, Monroe, NJ

(P) 732-574-9434, ext 105

(F) 732-499-6778

Register online at: www.OPTCommunications.com/NJLTCCLC

Physicians, medical directors, nurses, administrators, pharmacists, social workers and dietitians earn **five credits**.

Expiration Dates of Shorter Than Manufacturer's When Opened

Advair Diskus: 30 days

Albuterol/Ipratropium Inhalation Solution, (Foil Pkgs):
7 days *if manufacturer requires, check pkg

Alprazolam Intensol: 90 days

Applesauce, juice, or any supplement (on cart):
24 hours *unless otherwise specified by manufacturer

Azasite Eye Drops (store unopened drops in refrigerator):
14 days

Digoxin Elixir: 60 days

Epogen/Procrit (Multi-dose vials in refrigerator): 21 days

Insulin Vials (once removed from refrigerator):
28 days *unless otherwise specified by manufacturer

Furosemide Oral Solution: 60 days

Lorazepam Intensol (store in refrigerator): 90 days

Calcitonin Salmon/Fortical Nasal Spray (once removed from refrigerator): 30 days

Mucomyst (Acetylcysteine)(opened in refrigerator): 96 hours

Multi-dose vials (for example: Tigan, Heparin, Vitamin B12, flu vaccine): 28 days

Nitroglycerin Sublingual Tablets: 90 days

Normal Saline/ Sterile Water: Discard unused portion

Omnaris Nasal Spray: 4 months

Oxyfast & Roxanol (morphine sulfate) Oral Solution: 90 days

Pepcid (Famotidine) Suspension: 30 days

Pro-Stat (all formulations), Fiber-Stat & Pro-Source: 90 days

Pulmicort (store upright, opened foil packages): 14 days

Serevent Diskus: 6 weeks

Symbicort Turbuhaler: 90 days

Trileptal Oral Suspension: 7 weeks

Tuberculin Purified Protein Derivative (PPD): 30 days

Xalatan Eye Drops (once removed from refrigerator): 6 weeks

Xopenex Inhalation Solution (opened foil packages): 2 weeks

**Most restrictive time frame used. Consult product labeling for manufacturer specific dates.*



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EPIC Corner

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Reminder! When transcribing medication orders, it is very important to go beyond just “copying” what is written. For example, the EPIC department recently reviewed the following order:

“Restoril 30 mg po at bedtime for amnesia.”

The only labeled indication for Restoril is insomnia. There are no off-label indications for the use of Restoril. Anterograde amnesia or memory impairment can occur following administration of therapeutic doses of benzodiazepines such as Restoril (temazepam). During clinical trial evaluation of temazepam, amnesia was reported in less than 0.5% of patients.

When transcribing orders, the transcriber should ask, **“does this make sense?”** If it does not, as above, stop and contact the prescriber before proceeding.

Healthcare Quality Strategies Presents Awards to Consultants



Harlan Martin, CEO, presents Belinda Cella with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. for her contribution to the NJ Drug Safety Initiative, community outreach efforts, and commitment to improving medication safety for seniors. Vice President Ed Curtin (not pictured), also received the award.

PCI Participates in GIFT Program



Pat Cafone, Executive Director of Operations for Pharma-Care, Inc. (center) and consultant pharmacist Jennifer Balog (right) discuss the role of consultant pharmacy with students.

The Geriatric Interdisciplinary Fellowship Training (GIFT) program at Meridian Health is an eight week summer fellowship that offers medical, nursing and allied health students an opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary team to plan, deliver and evaluate care to older adults across the continuum of services in a health system. Students are provided with experiences in an “Acute Care of the Elderly” (ACE) Unit in a community hospital and rotate through a university teaching hospital, a sub-acute unit, home care, long term care and private practice settings.

Under the guidance of board certified geriatricians, geriatric pharmacists and geriatric advance practice and clinical scholar nurses, the medical, nursing and allied health student has the opportunity to practice selected professional skills and procedures and participate in evidenced based initiatives and quality improvement activities.

A primary goal of the program is to encourage students to pursue a career in gerontology. This summer the program ran from June 4 through July 27.

Welcome to Our New Clients

Golden Heart Adult Day Care

West Parkway Ambulatory Surgery Center

May Street Surgical Center



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