

# THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

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

First Quarter 2014

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## Common Med Pass Errors Made During DOH Surveys

Following are some common medication pass errors that were found in recent reviews. How well would your facility do?

- Imdur not administered “upon arising” despite pharmacy cautionary on MAR
- OsCal + D given instead of plain OsCal
- Quinolone antibiotic not separated from iron-containing product
- Only one tablet of medication administered despite an order for two tablets to be administered
- Did not instruct resident to rinse mouth after use of steroid inhaler
- Only one spray per nostril was administered of nasal spray despite an order for two sprays in each nostril
- Did not separate calcium and iron by two hours
- Granule laxative not mixed/diluted in appropriate amount of fluid
- Enteric-coated aspirin administered instead of chewable aspirin
- Plain multivitamin administered instead of multivitamin with mineral
- Resident accidentally received one or more medications by mouth despite orders that ALL medications be administered via PEG tube
- Flomax not administered 1/2 hour after a meal
- Metformin not administered with a meal
- Lopressor not administered with a meal
- Two drops of eye medication in each eye were administered despite order for one drop in each eye
- Incorrect administration of Spiriva Inhaler

- Medications left in room with resident unattended
- Medications failed to be administered at ordered time
- Prilosec not administered on an empty stomach
- Colace capsule administered despite order for Colace liquid

## New Residency Program Designed to Retain LTC Nurses

The New Jersey Action Coalition (NJAC) recently received \$1.6 million in funding from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop, implement, and evaluate a new RN “transition into practice” model for LTC facilities in NJ. The 12 month program was designed to attract new staff and to reduce the high turnover rate of nurses in long-term care by providing them with the skills and competencies to succeed in the nursing home environment.



The overall focus and unique aspects of this project was described as including: “1) a focus on quality and safety using evidence based care for the residents of the LTC facility, 2) application of core knowledge, skills, and attitude as it relates to the older adult, 3) partnership between academic institutions and the LTC practice setting, 4) preceptor education, and 5) evaluation of organizational characteristics that help increase recruitment and retention of the new RN graduate.”

In partnership with the Health Care Association of NJ (HCANJ), 50 new preceptors and 50 newly graduated nurses began a 12 month residency program in December 2013. CMS funding for the program is generated from penalties that the NJ Department of Health levies against nursing homes



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**welcome**  
to our newest clients

Springfield Surgery Center  
Elmwood Hills Health Care Center  
Westwind Manor  
CareOne at the Cupola  
CareOne at Livingston LTC & AL  
CareOne at Teaneck  
CareOne at Ridgewood Ave  
CareOne at Moorestown LTC & AL  
CareOne at Hamilton LTC & AL  
Emily Manor

### Use of > and < Symbols Discouraged

The greater than and less than symbols are often used incorrectly or misunderstood. For example, an order to “hold warfarin if  $INR < 2.5$ ” was actually intended as “INR greater than 2.5”.

These symbols can be misinterpreted in other ways as well. Recently another error was reported in which the “greater than” symbol was misread as a 7. The error allowed an order to “continue warfarin until  $INR > 2$ ” to initially be interpreted as “continue warfarin until INR72”.

Using the words “greater than” or “less than” instead of these symbols can prevent these kinds of errors.

### New Weekend Hours for CMA Classes



Pharma-Care, Inc.’s popular Certified Medication Aide (CMA) class is now being offered with weekend hours. Classes scheduled at time of publication are:

- January 25, 26, 30, February 1, 2 in Clark
- March 15, 16, 20, 22, 23 in Collingswood.

Remember, classes are continuously being added upon demand. Classes can also be customized for employees of your facility.

For information, to schedule a class, or to register a student, call Maureen Ziegler, (732) 574-9015, extension 105.

## EPIC Corner

ELECTRONIC PHARMACIST INFORMATION CONSULTANT  
(MEDICATION REVIEWS WITHIN 48 BUSINESS HOURS)

**EPIC Phone: 732-943-3573**

✓ EPIC has continued its observation of potentially inappropriate medications as determined by the Beers panel and has found that 28.6 per cent of residents reviewed were receiving one or more *potentially* inappropriate medications. Although these medications may be used, when EPIC indicates that a potentially inappropriate medication has been detected, make sure adequate documentation exists in *the medical record* to support that use.

✓ Please remember to use a cover sheet for each resident when faxing to EPIC. Making sure the resident’s name is legible.

✓ When requesting a “change of status” review, remember that the problem observed must be *checked off on the cover sheet*. EPIC requires this information when processing a “change of status” review. If nothing is checked off, the review will be treated as new.

✓ Remember to follow your process for placing the EPIC review into the resident’s chart. The EPIC review should be placed in the pharmacist consultation section of the chart.

### Projections On Aging Baby Boomers

- Between 2011 and 2029, about 10,000 baby boomers will turn 65 every day. By 2030, one in five Americans will be 65 and older.
- The number of Americans with chronic conditions will have increased by 37 % between 2000 and 2030.
- Most Americans over 65 will need about three years of long-term care.
- According to the Population Reference Bureau, in recent years there has been a shift of “boomers” staying close to home rather than moving to the sunbelt or other popular out-of-state destinations as they reach retirement age.

from PBS “6 Tips for Averting  
America’s Looming Long-Term Care Crisis” Nov. 3, 2013



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