Pharmacogenomics

Something new is happening at Pharma-Care; we are now interpreting Pharmacogenomic reports.

For those that do not know what Pharmacogenomic testing entails, it is the study of how a gene can affect a person's response to certain drugs.

Gene testing can help guide us to select the best drug and most appropriate doses to treat our residents effectively. This will enhance patient medication safety, offer better drug efficacy, and help lower medical costs.

Residents that are being treated with the following medication classes might benefit from genetic testing: antidepressants, antipsychotics, epilepsy medications, blood thinners, and opioid medications.

And for even more exciting news, Medicare may cover pharmacogenomic testing if deemed medically reasonable and if a resident has a medication regimen with a known gene drug interaction.

As medicine keeps evolving, the role that genetics plays will prove increasingly essential for safe, effective, and efficient patient care.

Please feel free to reach out to Scott Blumberg, CEO of Pharma-Care, with any questions you may have regarding Pharmacogenomics.

Reminder: Flomax (tamsulosin)

Flomax is indicated for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). BPH is a condition in older men where the prostate gland enlarges, putting pressure on the urethra. However, Flomax is commonly ordered by prescribers in women with lower urinary tract symptoms (such as voiding dysfunction), although not FDA-approved for this use. Please make sure proper documentation is in place to warrant use of this medication.

STATE SURVEY TRENDS

F658 – Profession Standards
- Nurse failed to sign out controlled substance from declining inventory sheet immediately after removing medication.
- Foley output was not documented for 3 days.

F760 – Medication Error
- Incorrect oxygen concentration
- Medication administered late, Carafate given after breakfast
- Incorrect amount of fluid used with administration of Potassium liquid (per order)
- Nurse borrowed medications from another resident
- Medications that cannot be crushed were crushed

F761 – Medication Storage
- Unlocked medication cart
- Undated nebulizer medications

F698 – Dialysis
- Dialysis book not completed
- Facility failed to educate the staff on competency on the assessment and care for various dialysis sites
- Orders not scheduled to accommodate dialysis times

F677 - ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
- Facility failed to provide appropriately and timely incontinence care

F686 - Treatment/Svcs to Prevent/Heal Pressure Ulcers
- Failed to provide appropriate ulcer care

F880 - Infection Prevention & Control
- Failed to wash hand for appropriate amount of time
- PPE gowns and gloves were worn in the hallway
- PPE was not worn when entering resident's room
- Incorrect wipes utilized for disinfecting glucometers

F812 – Food Safety Requirements
- Facility failed to maintain kitchen equipment in a clean, safe, and sanitary manner

F641 – Accuracy of Assessment
- Incorrect coding by MDS

F758 – Psychotropic
- PRN psychotropic did not include a duration

F755 – Pharmacy Services
- Unlocked narcotic box in refrigerator
- Medications not available

F757 – Unnecessary Drugs
- Flomax used for females without proper documentation

F578 - Request/Refuse/ Discontinue Treatment; Formulate Adv Di
- Did not ensure accurate documentation of advanced directives

F695 - Respiratory/ Tracheostomy care and Suctioning
- Oxygen tubing not changed

S560 - Right to Refuse Certain Transfers
- Failed to maintain the required minimum direct care staff to shift ratios

F689 - Free of Accident Hazards/ Supervision/Devices
- Failed to follow fall prevention interventions

InService Updates
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

STATE SURVEY UPDATE

SURVEYORS WILL BEGIN USING THE NEW GUIDANCE WHEN CONDUCTING ANNUAL SURVEYS STARTING APRIL 28, 2025. SOME OF THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN REORGANIZED AND THERE IS MUCH FOCUS ON OBTAINING CONSENT FOR USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE AND PAIN MANAGEMENT MEDICATIONS. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR PHARMA-CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSERVICES IF NEEDED.

New InServices:

INS_C359 - Additional or Increase of Psychoactive Medication:
Discussion with Medical Staff on Psych Medication.

INS_H360 - Revised Guidance to Surveyors
1. Chemical Restraints/ Unnecessary Psychotropic Medication:
2. Professional Standards and Medical Director:
3. Pain Management as related to F697

NEW
NURSING NOTABLE

PLEASE CLICK ON EACH SEPARATE INSERVICE TO DOWNLOAD PDF

New Drugs In the Spotlight

JOURNAYX

The U.S. FDA approved Journavx (suzetrigine), a non-opioid analgesic to treat moderate to severe acute pain in adults. Acute pain is short-term pain that is typically in response to some form of tissue injury, such as trauma or surgery. Journavx reduces pain by targeting a pain-signaling pathway involving sodium channels in the peripheral nervous system, before pain signals reach the brain.

The most common adverse reactions in study participants who received Journavx were itching, muscle spasms, increased blood level of creatine phosphokinase, and rash. Journavx is contraindicated for concomitant use with strong CYP3A inhibitors. Additionally, patients should avoid food or drink containing grapefruit when taking Journavx.

E.P.I.C. Corner
ELECTRONIC PHARMACIST INFORMATION CONSULTANT
(MEDICATION REVIEWS WITHIN 48 BUSINESS HOURS)

Phone: 732-943-3573 - epic@pharmacareinc.com

Our Faxing System is designed to send out and retry 20 times (the system retries every 25 minutes), to deliver the EPIC reviews to numbers provided on file.

Starting April 2025 we will start eliminating fax numbers for those facilities who's faxes continually report the following:

- No Answer
- Line Busy (after 20 tries)
- Not a Fax Device
- Not a Fax Machine
- Channel Unavailable (VOiP)
- Unexpected Disconnect

Check the number(s) designated on your device(s). You can call the EPIC department at 732-943-3573 to check the numbers on file.

REMINDER: Please do not send completed EPIC reviews back to us. The completed EPIC review is ideally placed in the resident's chart or if facility is chartless scanned into their EMAR system.

Please make sure your fax machine is sending over legible information. Many times, EPIC receives requests with blank lines going through the pages which makes it difficult to read. If your not sure, send a fax from one device to another device at your facility and review.

EPIC/IMRR has 4 fax numbers:
732-574-3469 - 732-574-3926
732-943-3571 - 732-943-3572

ARM PRECAUTIONS

HOLD PARAMETERS

➤ Check the parameter such as blood pressure, pulse, blood sugar **immediately** before

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

➤ DO NOT "BORROW" MEDICATIONS.

➤ The medication MUST be given to the resident whose name is on the label.

➤ Check the back-up if the dose is not available. Contact prescriber for a one-time dose of a different medication that is readily available from back-up if necessary.

➤ Controlled substances are signed out on the declining inventory sheet immediately after pouring/popping out of bingo card. The MAR is saved after administration.

➤ Each time a controlled substance is signed out and removed from the declining inventory sheet, it MUST be documented on the MAR after administration. (especially PRNs)

➤ "Wasting" requires the signature of two nurses & document the reason why.

Pharma-Care, Inc.
Health Care Consultation Specialists
Serving Health Care Since 1976 -:- www.pharmacareinc.com
Creative Care Consulting
a Pharma-Care, Inc. Company
TRG The Rasa Group A Pharma-Care company
500 Craig Road, Suite 104, Manalapan, New Jersey 07726 -:- 732-574-9015 -:- Fax: 732-499-6778

Dear Valued Customers

Recently Pharma-Care, Creative Care Consulting and The Rasa Group, have changed the return address for sending payments with an invoice. If paying invoices by mail, please send the payments to our Manalapan Office.

Pharma-Care, Inc. -or-
Creative Care Consulting -or-
The Rasa Group, Inc.
500 Craig Road, Suite 104
Manalapan, NJ 07726

Pharma-Care, Inc.
Health Care Consultation Specialists
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a Pharma-Care, Inc. Company

TRG The Rasa Group
a Pharma-Care, Inc., company
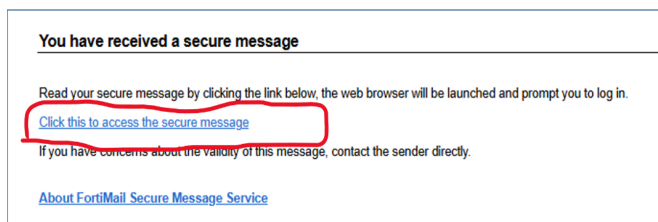
To our valued partners,

Based on new HIPAA rules and at the behest of our cyber-liability carrier, we have implemented a new email encryption program. This is for our protection and yours. Going forward, all of our reports will be sent using this encrypted email format. The initial email will come from either dvaeth@pharmacareinc.com or reports@pharmacareinc.com. The vendor for this service is FortiMail. When you receive an Encrypted email from Pharma-Care, Inc. you will need to identify yourself before you can read the email.

Below is how to register for verification. Registration is a one-time process. Once you are registered, you will only need to enter your password to read encrypted emails going forward.

Below is the an example of the email you will receive from the sender letting you know it's a secure (encrypted) email. Click on the circled link.

The Following box will pop up and should have your email address in the user email field. Enter the required information in all the fields, the password must be at least 8 characters and have one special symbol (!@#$% etc.)

After filling in the information, hit the Register button

You should see this window pop up. You can close the browser window, if you hit Continue you may not be able to open the attachment. Go back to your email program.

Encryption Continued ...

This is the original email sent to you. Click the circled link

You have received a secure message

Read your secure message by clicking the link below, the web browser will be launched and prompt you to log in.

Click this to access the secure message

If you have concerns about the validity of this message, contact the sender directly.

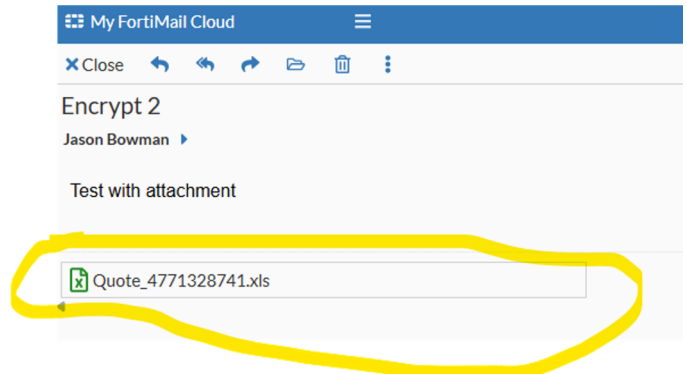**About FortiMail Secure Message Service**

This window should open, enter the password you created, then hit ope

Note: Next time you receive an encrypted email you will just see this box after clicking the link, the above process was only to register.

Identity Based Encryption   [Help]

From	bowmanj@caltalis.com
To	jprincipe@verizon.net
Subject	Encrypt Test
Password	

Open

Forgot the password?
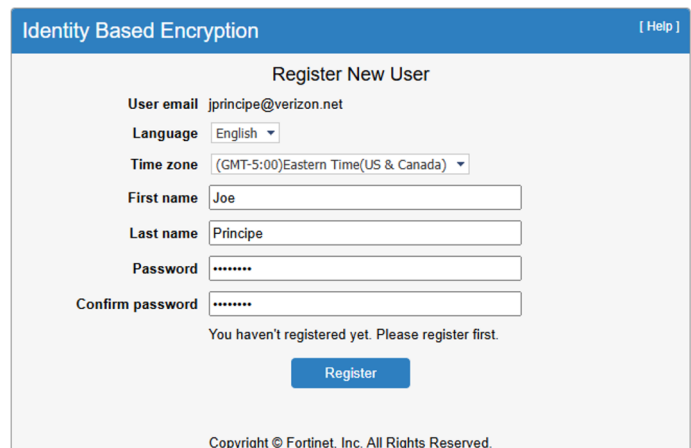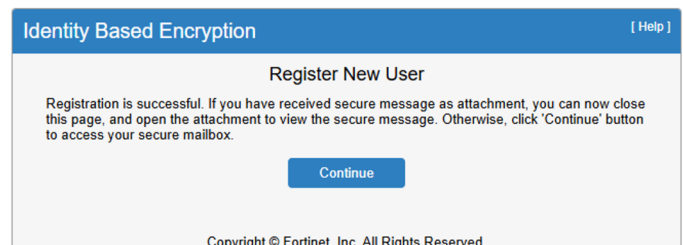
Copyright © Fortinet, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
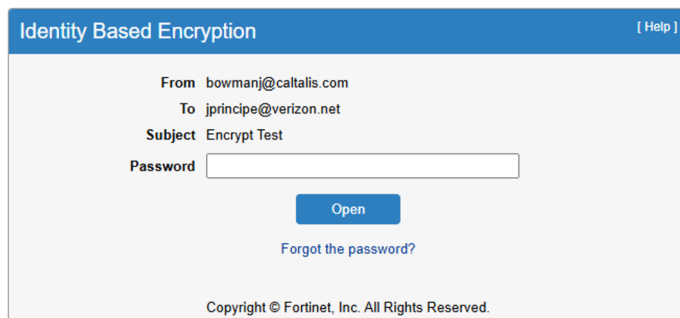
This is the Encrypted email with the text. The attachment will be at the bottom. Example is circled in yellow. You can click on the attachment to either open it or save it. The attachment may open in the download tray in the top right of your browser (especially Chrome).

My FortiMail Cloud

✕ Close

Encrypt 2
Jason Bowman ▶

Test with attachment

📊 Quote_4771328741.xls

FORTINET
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