

# THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

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

First Quarter 2017

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## IN MEMORIAM



**I**t is with profound sorrow that we inform you of the passing of our founder, mentor, friend, Harlan Stephen Martin who passed peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 after valiantly battling cancer for the last eighteen months.

Although this is devastating news, we at Pharma-Care, Inc. are dedicated to continuing the legacy that Harlan built. Over the last forty years, Harlan and Pharma-Care have set the standard for consultant pharmacy in New Jersey and beyond.

The outstanding leadership team at Pharma-Care remains unchanged with Harlan's son-in-law, Scott Blumberg assuming the role of CEO in 2015 when he began his battle against this dreaded disease. The transition of the leadership role began in 2009 when Scott assumed the role of CFO.

We remain strong in our resolve to provide the highest level of care to those patients we touch, which is the foundation on which Harlan built our company.

### What You Need to Know About Mega Rule & Pharmacy Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the long-awaited "Mega Rule", the comprehensive revision of CMS requirements for nursing homes. The final rules will be implemented over three years as follows:

Phase 1: November 28, 2016

Phase 2: November 28, 2017

Phase 3: November 28, 2019

### Reference number changed

CMS finalized the relocation of the requirements regarding *Pharmacy Services* from §483.60 to §483.45.

### Effective date

The entire *Pharmacy Services* section will be implemented in Phase 1 with the exception of "Medical Chart Review". "Medical Chart Review" and "Psychotropic Drugs" will be implemented in Phase 2.

### Drug regimen review (DRR)

CMS has finalized that the pharmacist should review a resident's medical record during every monthly DRR effective Phase 2.

CMS has added a requirement that facilities establish policies and procedures to address the entire DRR process including time frames for various actions and the process for a pharmacist to follow when immediate action is needed.

### Psychotropic drugs

CMS has finalized a 14 day limitation on PRN orders for psychotropic medications. There is an exception for psychotropic drugs when the attending physician believes they are needed for longer than 14 days.

When the attending physician believes a PRN prescription for psychotropic drugs is needed for longer than 14 days, the attending physician can extend the prescription by documenting her rationale in the resident's clinical record.

However, CMS does not believe this exception would be

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## What You Need to Know About Mega Rule & Pharmacy Services

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appropriate for anti-psychotic drugs. When an attending physician believes a resident requires an anti-psychotic drug on a PRN basis for more than 14 days, the attending physician will be required to write a new PRN prescription every 14 days after the resident has been evaluated.

All the new finalized requirements related to psychotropic drugs are effective in Phase 2.

## CDC Recommends Two Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults 65 and Over

There are two vaccines that can prevent pneumococcal disease: PCV13 and PPSV23. The CDC recommends the two pneumococcal vaccines for all adults 65 years or older.

- A dose of PCV13 first, followed by a dose of PPSV23, at least 1 year later.
- If one has already received any doses of PPSV23, the dose of PCV13 should be given at least 1 year after receipt of the most recent PPSV23 dose.
- If one has already received a dose of PCV13 at a younger age, another dose of PCV13 is not recommended.



### Who Should Get PCV13?

- All adults 65 years or older
- Adults 19 years or older with certain health conditions

### Who Shouldn't Get PCV13?

- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of the vaccine, to an earlier pneumococcal vaccine called PCV7 (or Prevnar), or to any vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid (for example, DTaP), should not get PCV13.
- Anyone with a severe allergy to any component of PCV13 should not get the vaccine.

### Who Should Get PPSV23?

- Adults 65 or over
- Adults 19 through 64 years with certain health conditions or who smoke

### Who Shouldn't Get PPSV23?

Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of PPSV23 or with a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine.

### Can Pneumococcal Vaccines Be Given at the Same Time?

No. When both vaccines are recommended, one should receive a dose of PCV13 first, followed by a dose of PPSV23 at another time.

## EPIC Corner

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

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

**EPIC Fax: 732-574-3469 or 3926**

The need for a program like EPIC is evidenced by its continued growth but its success can be attributed to the diligence with which each EPIC pharmacist treats each review. EPIC prides itself on having a top-notch staff that deserves commendation for their dedicated service. Thank you to the pharmacists who have helped make EPIC the viable and dynamic service it is:



Tony Acocella  
Janette Cardoso  
Amani Elsayah  
Lisa Kilburg

Katie Murphy  
Gary Newman  
Chris Poppe  
Douglas Wessel

Also a shout-out of thanks to those who have helped EPIC in the past:

Glenda Amador  
Deb Caylor  
Ed Curtin

Ed Rucki  
Letitia Winnegrad

EPIC extends warm wishes of the season and a happy New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2017.

**Welcome**  
to Our Newest Clients

Autumn Lake Health Care  
at Berkeley Heights  
Brooklawn Dialysis  
Monroe Twp Dialysis  
Pinnacle Treatment Center  
Endeavor House - North & South  
Spring Village at Galloway  
U.S. Renal Care Marlton Dialysis



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