

# THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

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

Third Quarter 2017

Phone: (732) 574-9015

136 Central Ave., Clark, New Jersey 07066

Fax: (732) 499-6778



## Antibiotic Stewardship Program: The Role of the Consultant Pharmacist

In the last issue of the "Quarterly Connection", we

highlighted the seven core elements for antibiotic stewardship in nursing homes. In it, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies consultant pharmacists as a major player in efforts to reduce antibiotic usage.

In this issue we bring to your attention a part of the CDC's "The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes; Appendix A: Policy and Practice Actions to Improve Antibiotic Use" in which they provide more detailed explanations of policy and practice actions which can be taken by nursing homes as part of their antibiotic stewardship activities. Among them are "Pharmacy interventions to improve antibiotic use":

- Review of antibiotic prescriptions as part of the drug regimen review (F-tag 428) for new medications is an existing practice for the consultant pharmacist. Elements of the antibiotic review should include dosing and administration data, to ensure prescribers are making appropriate adjustments for renal function and potential drug interactions. Consultant pharmacists can also review indication and justification of use to verify that antibiotics are used in accordance with facility-specific treatment guidelines.
- Establish standards on laboratory testing to monitor for adverse drug events related to use of antibiotics and other high risk medications such as warfarin.
- Review of microbiology culture results by the consultant pharmacist can add an additional level of feedback to prescribing clinicians on initial antibiotic selection and subsequent modifications of therapy once data is available. Consultant pharmacists can be given a

predefined set of criteria and/or guidance developed in collaboration with physician support to help optimize antibiotic use.

## NJHA Reports Nursing Home Contributions

New Jersey's 358 nursing homes contributed \$5.6 billion to the state economy in 2015 according to NJHA's "New Jersey Nursing Home Profile". The findings are based on financial information from 2015 Medicare cost reports and quality information from CMS' *Nursing Home Compare* website..

- Nearly 60% of NJ facilities received a four or five star rating compared with 46.3% nationally (an increase from about 50%).
- Only 6.6% received a one-star rating compared to 16.4% nationally.
- Average length-of-stay has decreased from 110 to 107 days.
- Average daily census has decreased from 47,034 to 46,900.

These findings indicate that "patients are getting treated more efficiently and returning home more quickly...despite an increase in the percentage of patients whose stays are categorized as requiring an intense level of rehabilitation and complex clinical care."

Theresa Edelstein, vice president of post acute care policy and special initiatives for NJHA, says "NJ's nursing homes are maintaining a very high level of quality, jobs growth and improved efficiency, even as the dynamics surrounding nursing homes are changing dramatically."

## HIPAA Compliance

In accordance with our ongoing commitment to HIPAA compliance, all Pharma-Care, Inc. staff recently completed mandatory HIPAA training and are certified as HIPAA compliant.



**Pharma-Care, Inc.**  
Health Care Consultation Specialists  
WWW.PHARMACAREINC.COM



## Pharma-care Staff Receives Self -Defense Training

In addition to the clinical updates and educational sessions at our staff meetings, Pharma-Care, Inc. employees recently received lessons in the Krav Maga method of self defense from Master Sunny Park of Master Park's Black Belt America, 380 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold.



## Kudos to NJSNA Winners!

Pharma-Care, Inc. was pleased that many of the award winners at the recent 2017 NJADONA-LTC convention are staff members of our client facilities. In recognition of their service, we offer congratulations to the following recipients:

**DON: Jacqueline Decker, MSN**

Meridian Nursing & Rehab at Wall

**ADON: Lori Erickson, RN, BSN**

Meridian Nursing & Rehab at Brick

**LPN: Sandy Shanaa-Cassese, LPN**

Meridian Nursing & Rehab at Brick

**CNA: Pia Chang, CNA**

Bridgeway Care & Rehab Center

**2017 Scholarship Winners:**

**Cynthia Mixson**, Bergen Regional Medical Center

**Deirdre Monaco**, Meridian Subacute Rehab

## EPIC Corner

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

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

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

**Email: [epic@pharmacareinc.com](mailto:epic@pharmacareinc.com)**

### "Technology or not technology"

Healthcare technology and communication has come a long way since the advent of fax machines—emails for example. Unlike a fax, emails reduce paper and clutter. They assure mail is delivered in a timely manner. They do not get tossed in the trash.

Unfortunately, these advances also may have unintended consequences. When systems are changed, the new system may decide emails coming from or going to a specific address are spam and the system will not deliver the email. This recently occurred at EPIC.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Pharma-Care, Inc. information and technology team, the problem was discovered and repaired rapidly.

Clear communication remains essential to resolve any problem. If you do not receive a review after two days, contact EPIC as soon as possible, Monday through Friday.

## Welcome to Our Newest Clients

LITTLE STAR CHILDREN'S MEDICAL DAY CARE

PARADISE ADULT HEALTH DAY CARE, LLC

HAMILTON STREET DIALYSIS

WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY HILLTOP GROUP HOME

WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY DEMAREST GROUP HOME

WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY HAMPTON GROUP HOME

COLUMBUS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

SURGIPILEX, LLC

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, TOMS RIVER

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, MEDICAL DAY CARE,

ROSELLE PARK

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, MOUNTAINSIDE

JACKSON TWP DIALYSIS CENTER

BRANDYWINE LIVING AT LIVINGSTON

NJ Long-Term Care Leaders Coalition 19th Annual Conference

## Person-Centered Care, 2017: A Bird's Eye View



**Thursday, October 19, 2017**

**8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**Holiday Inn East Windsor**

**\$110 by Aug 15/ \$125 after Aug 15**

**NJLTCLC.org (732) 574-9434, ext 105**

For: physicians, medical directors, nurses, administrators, social workers, pharmacists, case managers, dietitians, and others involved in long-term care. (5 credits pending)



## Pharma-Care, Inc.

Health Care Consultation Specialists

[WWW.PHARMACAREINC.COM](http://WWW.PHARMACAREINC.COM)

