

THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

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

Fourth Quarter 2014

Phone: (732) 574-9015

136 Central Ave., Clark, New Jersey 07066

Fax: (732) 499-6778

Common Medication Misconceptions in Long-Term Care

FALSE: *All eye drops must be dated upon opening and expire in 30 days.*

TRUE:

- Only Xalatan (Latanoprost) and Azasite (Azithromycin) eye drops require dating upon opening (removal from refrigerator).
- Xalatan (Latanoprost) expires 42 days after removal from refrigerator (at room temperature).
- Azasite (Azithromycin) expires 14 days after removal from refrigerator (at room temperature).
- If the facility policy requires dating eye drops upon opening and discarding after 30 days, then they must be dated.
- Remember! Medicare will calculate how many days the bottle of drops should last. If the eye drops are thrown out too early, the facility will have to pay for the refill
- Each milliliter contains 15-20 drops. A five (5)mL bottle of Patanol contains 75-100 drops. If the directions state to apply "1 drop to the right eye daily", this bottle should last 75-100 days. If it is thrown out monthly, the facility will have to pay for two refills.
- Surveyors will cite the facility if not following their own policy.

FALSE: *Stock bottles of Tylenol, Aspirin, Robitussin, Imodium, Pepto-Bismol, Vitamin C, MVI, Zinc, etc. require dating when opened.*

TRUE:

- Only items which expire before the manufacturer's expiration date require dating.
- This information is also listed on the bottle under "Storage Information".

FALSE: *Unopened insulin pens and vials can be stored in the medication cart.*

TRUE:

- Insulin starts to go bad as soon as it is stored outside the refrigerator.

- Unopened insulin pens and vials should be stored in the refrigerator until needed.
- Once opened, insulin pens and vials should be kept on the medication cart at room temperature, properly dated.

FALSE: *Miacalcin/Fortical (Calcitonin Salmon nasal spray) and Xalatan may be stored on med cart when received in the pharmacy delivery.*

TRUE:

- These medications require refrigeration until the resident needs to use them. Afterward, they may be dated and stored on the med cart.



State Survey Trends

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

Accountability of Controlled Medications

- Doses of PRN medications used do not match declining inventory. They are tracking this by looking at the MAR, declining inventory sheets, and also through the psych monitoring forms.
- Narcotic lock box not permanently affixed inside the medication refrigerator.

Medication Pass

- It has come to our attention that during the medication pass portion of the survey, some pharmacist surveyors are calling pharmacy providers to ascertain if medications are being filled in a timely manner. They are also verifying this by counting the number of pills remaining in the box in the medication cart or in bingo cards.

Medications Not Adjusted to Accommodate Dialysis

- The times of administration should be modified to accommodate the needs of the resident.



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



Pharma-Care, Inc. Announces Management Changes

Harlan Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Pharma-Care, Inc. recently announced the promotion of Harry Thibodeau from President to Chief Operations Officer effective



September 1, 2014. Harry's areas of concentration will include Government Affairs, Public Division operations, and Information and Technology Interface. In addition to those responsibilities, he will spearhead new business development in alternative channels.

Additionally, Mr. Martin announced the promotion of Ed Curtin from Vice-President, Executive Services to President of Pharma-Care, Inc. Ed's responsibilities will focus on oversight of contracts, corporate relations, public relations, and collections. He will also team with Harry to oversee operations of the entire company while focusing on our services to a diverse portfolio of practice settings in our Private Division including the EPIC and Ambulatory Surgical Care/Dialysis Divisions.

Assisted Living Facilities: Train Your CNAs to Become Certified Medication Aides

Pharma-Care, Inc. is a provider of state-approved classes for CMA certification. Classes total 30 hours of instruction over five days either on-site or at our Clark classroom. Students must also complete three supervised medication passes and take a state exam.

Call:
Maureen Ziegler
(732) 574-9015
Ext. 105



EPIC Corner

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

EPIC Phone: 732-943-3573

EPIC Fax: 732-574-3469

But It's Not in the Computer!

Epic received a phone call from a facility during the past quarter. The caller inquired as to why the EPIC review included commentary about *omeprazole*, a proton pump inhibitor.

The caller indicated that the resident was not receiving *omeprazole*.

The information received at EPIC was retrieved and indeed there was an order for *omeprazole* posted on the physician order sheet. The caller was informed of this and replied, "But the order is not in the computer!". The situation was resolved by the facility and the resident began to receive *omeprazole*, as prescribed.

Over-reliance on computers can, and does, lead to medication errors - - in this case an omission.

Although a wonderful tool, the computer does not replace the diligence, expertise, and training the health care professional brings to the table.

Please remember to step back and determine what course of action is to be taken when there is a discrepancy in the computer record. If we as health care professionals fail to do so, then we must be prepared to face the consequences should there be a negative patient outcome.



Welcome to our newest clients:

MATAWAN DIALYSIS

PREMIER HEALTH ASSOCIATES ASC

NEWARK HEALTH AND EXTENDED
CARE FACILITY



Pharma-Care, Inc.

Health Care Consultation Specialists

WWW.PHARMACAREINC.COM

