

THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

Quarterly Report from Pharma-Care, Inc. / Creative Care Consulting


Third Quarter 2020

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Co-Prescribing of Naloxone

In an effort to comply with the Administrative Order 2020-08 regarding the co-prescribing of Naloxone, we recommend the following:

- Have naloxone PRN orders written for all residents who fit the criteria outlined in the administrative order.
- Add naloxone to your emergency kit. Maintain at least one two-pack of Narcan (naloxone nasal spray) or 2 vials of Naloxone HCL injection in each emergency kit in the facility.
- Inservice the entire nursing staff on the proper use of naloxone, recognition of the signs and symptoms of opioid toxicity and overdose, along with facility protocols, monitoring, and proper follow up.
- Additional information regarding Narcan may also be found at www.narcanasalspray.com or by calling 1-844-462-7226.



Co-Prescribing of Naloxone

Dear Licensee,

This email is to alert you to an emergency rule adopted on May 21, 2020, by the Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, requiring co-prescription of the opioid antidote naloxone under certain circumstances. This order applies to the following licensees:

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Physician Assistants
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Dentists
- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Optometrists.

These practitioners are required to co-prescribe naloxone to patients when continuously prescribing controlled dangerous substances for management of chronic pain under the following conditions:

1. If the patient has one or more prescriptions totaling 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) or more per day; or
2. If the patient is concurrently obtaining an opioid and a benzodiazepine.

The practitioner is also required to document the co-prescribing in the patient record. This rule took effect on May 21, 2020, and will remain in effect for the duration of the state of emergency and public health emergency.

Prior to the adoption of this emergency rule, the Board of Medical Examiners proposed an identical rule which was published in the New Jersey Register on April 6, 2020. You may find the rule at 52 N.J.R. 676(a). The comment period for the proposed rule ends on June 5, 2020. The Boards of Dentistry, Nursing and Optometrists have all approved proposing a rule substantively identical to the rule proposed by the Board of Medical Examiners, but those proposals have not yet been published in the New Jersey Register.

The purpose of the emergency rule is to increase the availability of naloxone and reduce the risk of overdose death during the COVID-19 emergency. In addition, the anticipated adoption of the rule proposed by the Board of Medical Examiners, as well as the anticipated proposals by the other boards, will facilitate the continued availability of naloxone to at-risk patients when the COVID-19 emergency comes to a close. Co-prescribing of naloxone is broadly supported by national public health authorities, and mandatory co-prescribing will facilitate broader awareness of naloxone among at-risk patients.

For more information, please see:

- [Administrative Order No. 2020-08](#)
- [Press Release](#)

Thank you,
Paul R. Rodriguez
Acting Director
Division of Consumer Affairs
Office of the New Jersey Attorney General

How to Calculate Opioid Oral Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Conversion Factors

Type of Opioid (strength units)	MME Conversion Factor	Type of Opioid (strength units)	MME Conversion Factor
Buprenorphine film/tablet (mg)	30	Meperidine hydrochloride (mg)	0.1
Buprenorphine patch (mcg/hr)	12.6	Methadone (mg)	
Buprenorphine film (mcg)	0.03	>0, <= 20	4
Butorphanol (mg)	7	>20, <=40	8
Codeine (mg)	0.15	>40, <=60	10
Dihydrocodeine (mg)	0.25	>60	12
Fentanyl buccal or SL tablets, or lozenge/troche5 (mcg)	0.13	Morphine (mg)	1
Fentanyl film or oral spray (mcg)	0.18	Opium (mg)	1
Fentanyl nasal spray (mcg)	0.16	Oxycodone (mg)	1.5
Fentanyl patch (mcg)	7.2	Oxymorphone (mg)	3
Hydrocodone (mg)	1	Pentazocine (mg)	0.37
Hydromorphone (mg)	4	Tapentadol (mg)	0.4
Levorphanol tartrate (mg)	11		



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Creative Care Consulting, LLC

Two Promotions Announced at Pharma-Care, Inc.

PCI is pleased to announce the promotion of **Cheryl Bruno** as our new *Director of Ambulatory Surgical / Dialysis Care Centers*. Cheryl has worked as a consultant pharmacist in the State division for over 18 years, as well as in the Ambulatory Surgical & Dialysis division over the last six years. Cheryl takes over from Herman Rothschild who recently retired after 19 years as a consultant pharmacist at Pharma-Care. During the past seven years he also served as Director. Cheryl worked with Herman over the last several months's to ensure a seamless transition for the department.



PCI is also pleased to announce the promotion of **Stella Malouhos** as our new *Director of EPIC Services*. Stella has been a consultant pharmacist in the Private division for over 12 years. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her field work which will be integral in her new leadership position in the EPIC department. Stella takes the reins from Rick Corritore who was critical in developing the EPIC program nearly 20 years ago. Rick recently decided to step back from his leadership role but will continue to conduct EPIC reviews in semi-retirement. Stella can be reached by cell at (732) 882-4273 or by email at: Smalouhos@pharmacareinc.com.



As we welcome Stella and Cheryl to their new positions, we also want to thank Rick Corritore and Herman Rothschild for their many years of dedicated service and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.



ASCP Advocacy Efforts on Capitol Hill

Pharma-Care, Inc. executives Patricia Cafone, Jean Abdou, and Harry Thibodeau were recently pictured in **"The Senior Care Pharmacist"**, the bi-monthly newsletter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). They had been in Washington, DC to attend ASCP's 2019 Legislative Briefing and Congressional Fly-In last April. The annual event is intended to familiarize congressional representatives with relevant issues to help influence laws and regulations that improve pharmacy practice, increase patient access to needed medications, and highlight the important role of consultant pharmacists. ASCP is an international membership association that represents pharmacy professionals and students serving the unique medication needs of older adults. The society's mission is to promote healthy aging by empowering pharmacists with education, resources, and innovative opportunities.

EPIC Corner

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

Do You Have an eMAR System?

Please note that if your facility is utilizing an eMAR system, you can provide access to the EPIC department. This will eliminate the need to fax in EPIC reviews! Simply call the EPIC department for further information on how to set this service up for your facility.

Update Needed!

We want to ensure that our EPIC reviews are being sent to the correct emails or faxes. Please take a moment to send EPIC an email specifying which of your email or fax numbers should be on our distribution list so that we can update our information.

EPIC Phone: 732-943-3573

EPIC Fax: 732-574-3469 or 3926

Email: epic@pharmacareinc.com



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