



Care-Rx
HEALTH

DELIVERING PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SINCE 2008

May 2019

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QUICK UPDATES

NEW HOURS OF OPERATION

Starting June 1st, Home Care-Rx will extend our hours:

- Monday thru Friday 6am-2:30am
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 8am-12am
- On-call services available 24/7

Please note Creative Compounding hours differ:

- Monday thru Friday 9am-6pm
- Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

MEDS ON NATIONAL SHORTAGE

Hospice-related drugs currently on backorder:

- Atropine 1% ophthalmic solution
- Haloperidol tablets (0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg)
- Morphine for IV infusion/CADD pump
- Scopolamine 1 mg/3 days transdermal patch

However, our pharmacists can recommend therapeutic alternatives or compounds in order to provide our hospices with uninterrupted service, and our patients with continued care.

FDA APPROVES NAYZILAM (MIDAZOLAM) NASAL SPRAY FOR SEIZURE CLUSTERS

In May 2019, the U.S. FDA approved midazolam nasal spray (*Nayzilam*)—the first and only FDA-approved nasal option—for the treatment of acute repetitive seizures or seizure clusters (intermittent episodes of frequent seizure activity that differ from a patient's usual seizure pattern).

The availability of *Nayzilam* provides patients and their families a new treatment option for rescue care. It

is supplied as a single-dose (5mg/0.1mL) unit that can be carried with a patient and administered by persons who are not healthcare professionals.

The most common side effects are drowsiness, headache, nasal discomfort, throat irritation, and runny nose. It is contraindicated in patients with acute narrow-angle glaucoma. Use with other benzodiazepines and opioids may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JASON TRAN, PHARM.D

Hello, my name is Jason, and I am the owner of Home Care-Rx; I also own Care-Rx a Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) company, and Creative Compounding Pharmacy. I have been a pharmacist for 25 years now—with fifteen of those years, servicing the hospice community. I discovered an interest in end-of-life care when I was managing the pharmacy department at Talbert Medical Group back in the early 2000s. As I got involved and interacted more with hospice nurses by providing clinical support/consultations, I realized pharmacists could bring a wealth of pharmaceutical knowledge to the table, which ultimately, would help this population in managing pain and other end-of-life symptoms. As a result, I started Care-Rx, a PBM with a hospice focus in 2009.

Fast forward to 10 years later, I have added Home Care-Rx and Creative Compounding Pharmacy to help meet those various hospice needs, ranging from timely

deliveries to med consultations to custom-tailored compounded drugs. Together, we work as a cohesive team to meet the needs of hospice with the highest level of service that patients and their families come to expect. We look forward to continuing to be an integral part of the hospice mission and to keep patients comfortable during their end-of-life journey.

A little bit about myself outside of work, my wife, Lana, and I have recently become empty-nesters. We have two beautiful daughters, who have both finished their undergraduate studies at USC, and have now continued on to medical school. Lana and I are set to travel the world soon, starting with Thailand this October and then Australia for the Australian Open (tennis tournament) in January 2020.

DANIELLE BASHOR

Hi! My name is Danielle and I am a proud wife, mom of two adorable little boys, a sister to a special needs brother, and an undergraduate from CSUF. I was born and raised in Orange, CA and have actually never moved. The house I grew up in, is now the same house I am raising my own family in—kind of strange to some and maybe even my husband, but I LOVE it! By nature, I am a very competitive and driven person, I continually go above and beyond in everything I do whether it's work-related or my personal life. Growing up with a special needs brother has taught me to look at life differently; life is short, life is sweet, make the most of it, be grateful for everything you have, and strive to make a difference in other people's lives.

While I definitely have my hands full most of the time, I absolutely love and enjoy working here because it challenges me intellectually. Working as the Executive Assistant and Business Operations Manager of Care-Rx, Home Care-Rx and Creative Compounding Pharmacy has helped me grow both as an individual and in my profession. Over the last two and a half years—and with the guidance of the owner, Jason Tran—I have learned so much about the pharmaceutical industry, hospice and what needs to happen operationally in order to run smooth and successful companies. Each and every day is completely different, bringing on a new set of challenges and hurdles to overcome, but that's what keeps it interesting and always has me eager to learn more.

When I'm not working, even though the staff knows they can reach me 24/7, I absolutely love spending quality time with my family. Children's laughter and joy is contagious and I wish time would slow down so I could enjoy it more. The days are long, but the years are short. I look forward to what the future holds for me here and continuing to grow with the companies.

THE RISE IN DRUG PRICES: EXPLAINED

Recent surges in generic prescription drug prices has drawn so much attention from politicians across the political spectrum that it prompted further investigation. Currently, attorney generals from over 44 states have come together to file a lawsuit charging 20 of the nation's major generic drug manufacturers for colluding to fix prices, and artificially inflating and manipulating the prices of hundreds of generic drugs. These drugs account for billions of dollars in the U.S. and range from treatments for minor infections to chronic diseases (i.e. arthritis, cancer, diabetes, HIV) to epilepsy and depression.

The lawsuit filed alleges Teva, Sandoz, Mylan, Pfizer and 16 other large generic prescription drug makers (see below for complete list) for conspiring to create a "fair share" of the generic drug market and avoid price-lowering competition. In other words, if one company were to raise prices on a particular drug, then other companies would follow suit *or* the companies would agree to divide up the market rather than competing for it by lowering prices. Subsequently, this leads to increases in prices that affect Medicare and Medicaid, the health insurance market and individual consumers (i.e. patients).

Sometimes, the generic drug's price increase is not noticeable to the consumers. Say a patient's copay is \$5 for every prescription, if his/her insurance company has to start paying more for the prescription drugs due to the rise in drug prices, it will likely raise his/her health plan's premiums the following year. Ultimately, the increased cost burden will fall upon the patient in one way or another. Surveys already show more Americans are having trouble paying out-of-pocket medical costs, the average annual deductible in job-based health plans

having quadrupled in the past 12 years and now averages \$1,300.

Reports found that between July 2013 and July 2014, prices of more than 1,200 generic medications increased an average of 448%. Looking at just Teva specifically, though the magnitude of their price increases varied for approximately 112 different generic drugs over a 19-month period, many of them were well over 1,000% increased. Take doxycycline for example, the average market price of the antibiotic went from \$20 to \$1,829 in a year—an increase of over 8,000%!

Investigators have gathered hard evidence exposing the generic drug industry for executing a multibillion-dollar fraud on the American people; a collection of emails, text messages, telephone records and former company insiders leads towards proving this multi-year conspiracy. "It's what we believe to be the biggest corporate cartel in history and probably the biggest antitrust price-fixing case in the United States, certainly right now and maybe in our nation's history," said Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, who is leading the states' coalition against the generic drug companies.

Other companies involved: Actavis Pharma, Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Apotex, Aurobindo Pharma U.S.A., Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Greenstone, Lannett Company, Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Sandoz, Taro Pharmaceuticals USA, Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Wockhardt USA and Zydus Pharmaceuticals.

LUNCH & LEARN

Home Care-Rx's very own Account Services Manager and Pharmacist, Alex Velasco, travels to present nurses with educational tools such as:

- Home Care-Rx pharmacy operations
- PCA/CADD pump in-services
- Pain management bootcamp (methadone dosing, opioid conversions)

Please contact our pharmacy for more information

MEDICAL DISCLAIMER

The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read on this newsletter.

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We are open to any suggestions and feedback that you may have. Please email inguyen@carerxhealth.com with topics you would like to read or learn about.