



Care-Rx
HEALTH

DELIVERING PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SINCE 2008

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QUICK UPDATES

MEDS ON NATIONAL SHORTAGE

Hospice-related drugs currently on backorder:

- Atropine 1% ophthalmic solution
- Haloperidol tablets (0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg)
- Scopolamine 1 mg/3 days transdermal patch

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

FDA APPROVES FIRST GENERIC OF NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE

The first generic of *Narcan* (naloxone hydrochloride) has been approved by the U.S. FDA for the cessation or reversal of opioid overdose effects. Teva's generic naloxone nasal spray is the first that may be used by individuals with no medical training in a community setting. Assembly is not required before administration, and the nasal spray delivers a consistent, measured dose when used as directed. Patients should be instructed to lay on their backs when inhaling the spray through his or her nostril. Administration can be repeated if necessary.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ANDY VU, PHARM.D

Hello, my name is Andy, and I am a pharmacist here at Home Care-Rx (please note that I am not Andrew, the Pharmacy Tech Supervisor. He is far better looking and a better person). I have been part of the Home Care-Rx

family for over five months, and I have enjoyed every single moment. Before I joined Home Care-Rx, I found myself in a few different areas in pharmacy: working for one of the nation's leading drugstore chains, reviewing prior authorizations for specialty medications for a PBM, and serving the needs of those in the behavioral health and addiction treatment communities at an outpatient pharmacy. Now that I am at Home Care-Rx, I am given the opportunity to work with the best people, including our very own team and the nursing staff from various hospices. I look forward every day to working together knowing that we all share a common goal of providing the best patient care to enable our patients to achieve the highest quality of life possible.

When I am away from work, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, playing video games, and closely following sports, especially basketball and football. With the NBA playoffs going on right now, you can find me catching the games, looking at box scores, reading news and online forums, and sometimes even betting on the line if I am feeling lucky. If money and time were not an issue, then I would definitely pick back up old hobbies—such as drawing, which I have put aside many years ago. Even though I may still doodle here and there, I would love to put in the time to practice again and to create a portfolio to showcase my work.

VICKY SERRANO

Hello, my name is Virginia Serrano but most people know me as Vicky. I always knew I wanted to work in the medical field but I wasn't sure which approach I wanted to take so I was pleasantly surprised when I stumbled upon pharmacy. I have a total of 5 years of experience as a Pharmacy Technician, and have been fortunate enough to be a part of Home Care-Rx for a year now.

When I am not at Home Care-Rx, I spend most of my time with my family. I am the youngest of three siblings, and have one niece and two nephews. We love having barbecues, hanging out by the pool, or just binge-watching movies. As I've gotten older, I've realized the importance of having a united family, which is part of the reason why I feel so comfortable working at Home Care-Rx; we are more than just a group of coworkers; we have all become a family.

Recently, I have taken on a new position as Pharmacy Technician Supervisor, which has been an amazing learning experience so far. In taking this role, my goal is to ensure that we provide the best service for you as well as our patients. Our priority is to provide the patients with the best level of comfort in their time of need. We are always here for any questions or concerns you may have.

DEA ANNOUNCES ENHANCED TOOL FOR DRUG MANUFACTURERS & DISTRIBUTORS TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations require distributors to know their customers and to develop a method that identifies and reports suspicious orders and/or ordering patterns. Manufacturers and distributors have been asking for the DEA's assistance in fulfilling these requirements and requesting for help to make informed decisions about whether their customers are purchasing excessive quantities of controlled substances. In response, the DEA launched a new online reporting tool called the Automated Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) in February 2018 to assist drug manufacturers and distributors with their regulatory obligations under the Controlled Substances Act. ARCOS is a comprehensive drug reporting system that monitors the distribution of controlled substances from the point of manufacture to the point of sale to the retail level (i.e. practitioners, pharmacies, hospitals/clinics); it does not contain or collect any data on sales to ultimate users (i.e. patients).

On Oct. 24, 2018, the President signed a law, requiring the DEA to provide drug manufacturers and distributors with access to information through ARCOS to help drug manufacturers and distributors identify, report, and stop

suspicious orders of opioids and reduce diversion rates. The new statute in the "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act" builds upon the existing tool.

Subsequently, on Feb. 26, 2019, the DEA announced an enhancement to the system to help registered drug manufacturers and distributors nationwide more effectively identify potential illicit drug diversion and combat the opioid epidemic. The enhancement will allow DEA-registered manufacturers and distributors nationwide to view and download the number of distributors and the amount (in both grams and dosage units) each distributor sold to a prospective customer over several months. This new tool will provide information for distributors to consider as part of their assessment to more effectively identify potential illicit drug diversion and combat the opioid epidemic. For example, if a query resulted in a large number of suppliers who have recently sold unusual quantities of opioid analgesics to a prospective purchaser, this may represent a "red flag" to the new distributor and foster a dialogue between that distributor and the pharmacy.

HOW IT AFFECTS US

Although Home Care-Rx serves the hospice population, we are unfortunately *not* exempt from the new DEA regulations and are just as closely monitored by our distributors. As a result, towards the end of each month (and sometimes even mid-month), our vendors restrict our orders for the following Controlled Substances (i.e. narcotics/opioids, benzodiazepines):

- Norco (hydrocodone/APAP) (*tablets, liquid*)
- Dilaudid (hydromorphone) (*tablets, liquid*)
- Fentanyl (*transdermal patches*)
- Ativan (lorazepam) (*tablets, liquid*)
- Methadone (*tablets, liquid*)
- Roxanol/morphine (*immediate-release tablets, extended-release tablets, liquid*)
- Oxycontin/oxycodone (*immediate-release tablets, extended-release tablets, liquid*)
- Percocet (oxycodone/APAP) (*tablets*)
- Promethazine/codeine (*liquid*)

Therefore, we hope you can now better understand that in an effort to strategically ration our supplies and reduce misuse and waste, our pharmacy has had to make slight changes to the dispensed quantity for the above Controlled Substances to ensure that no hospice patient goes without them at the end of each month.