

What we've been doing...

Green Tree Pharmacy has dispensed over 475,000 prescriptions for over 6,000 residents at 120 facilities throughout Illinois and Indiana through August 2022. This averages out to about 60,000 prescriptions per month and about 2,200 prescriptions per day!

Rumor vs. Truth...

Rumor... I can not administer a COVID booster and a flu shot on the same day

Truth... Both COVID and flu immunizations are in-active vaccines and can be given on the same day. Preferably different arms, or at least 1 inch apart on the same arm.

A person who received a live, injectable vaccine (MMR-11, Varivax) in the past 4 weeks should wait 28 days before receiving another live vaccine.

Inactivated vaccines may be administered at the same time or at any time before or after a live vaccine.

Suggestions/Comments...

We'd love to hear how we are doing and are always open to your feedback to improve our services. Please call 1-800-913-8174 or visit our website greentreepharm.com and click "contact us" to submit the request / comment.



Highlights

- Hot Topics: COVID booster update p1
- New Products / Supply Issues p1
- Operations Tips and Tricks p1
- Flu vaccine/outbreak p2
- Regulatory Update / Review p2
- Clinical Focus: Auvelity p2

News from Our Pharmacy Operations Team

COVID Booster Update:

CDC recommends bivalent COVID-19 boosters to add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components from Pfizer for age 12 years and older and Moderna for 18 years and older. This booster can be given at least 2 months after last vaccination. The previous non-bivalent vaccine is now only approved for 1st/2nd doses. If there are any original Pfizer (gray caps) in fridge, please discard at this time to prevent administration errors, and contact pharmacy if a resident needs a primary series dose.

Monkeypox:

The World Health Organization declared Monkeypox a public health emergency. Symptoms of Monkeypox is most commonly a rash on either genitals, hands, feet, chest, face or mouth. rash can initially look like pimples or blisters, and may be painful or itchy. Other symptoms include: fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, muscle aches, headache, & respiratory symptoms.

Monkeypox can spread through close skin to skin contact, touching objects/surfaces that have been exposed or respiratory secretions. Symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure. Illness typically lasts 2 to 4 weeks.

Eligibility to get vaccinated for monkeypox includes: sexually active men who have sex with men or if around someone who was diagnosed with MPV.

Pharmacy Team Spotlight:



Gary joined our team in May of 1999. He is a courier driver and has driven most of the routes. Gary does the majority of our STAT day deliveries.

He shows his "Happy to Oblige" ethics by being a team player and always willing to help with any task and always with a smile on his face. Gary maintains the courier vans to ensure they are in tip top shape. He is always willing to picking up extra shifts and appreciated by all of us at Green Tree Pharmacy.

Operations Tips and Tricks

Be sure to communicate with pharmacy when medications from the convenience boxes have been used to ensure timely replenishment and eliminate the need for utilizing a back-up pharmacy due to stock-outs.

Upcoming Events

October 18th – National Pharmacy Tech Day

October 24th – Phase 3 State Operations Manual updates go into effect

Clinical Acorns and Guidelines

Regulatory Update/ Review

Dispensing Controlled Substances Policy:

Nursing Removal Procedure:

Nursing is responsible for having a valid prescription **authorized by a pharmacist** prior to removing any narcotic from the narc box.

An order alone is not sufficient for removal.

DEA regulations do not permit unauthorized removal of narcotics from the narc box and unauthorized use may result in legal action.

The physician can call a prescription into Green Tree. If after 5:30 pm, and the medication is not needed until next business day, a voicemail can be left on the x1038 voicemail. If medication is needed immediately, the physician can speak to the on-call pharmacist directly.

NOTE: if the prescription was already faxed to the pharmacy, the nurse is to expect that the medication has been dispensed. Another prescription is needed for removal from the narcotic box.

If the requirements are fulfilled, the nurse may break the red seal on the box and record the removal sheet, immediately faxing to the pharmacy.

Once the red seals have been broken, 2 nurses from each shift must shift count the remaining contents and lock with provided yellow seals.

Flu:

ACIP recommends that adults 65 years and older preferentially receive any one of the following higher dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines: quadrivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, quadrivalent recombinant influenza vaccine, or quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine. If none of these three vaccines are available at an opportunity for vaccine administration, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used.

The CDC recommends annual flu shots for everyone 6 months and older by the end of October or as soon as possible each flu season.



Influenza outbreak:

When 2 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza are identified within 72 hours of each other in residents on the same unit, outbreak control measures should be implemented as soon as possible.

CDC recommends antiviral chemoprophylaxis for a minimum of 2 weeks and continuing for at least 7 days after the last known laboratory-confirmed influenza case was identified on affected units.

All long-term care facility residents who have confirmed or suspected influenza should receive antiviral treatment immediately.

Antiviral treatment works best when started within the first 2 days of symptoms. However, if at an increased risk for complications, initiate treatment as soon as possible even if > 48 hours have elapsed since illness onset. Do not delay treatment for laboratory confirmation.

Tamiflu (oseltamivir) is most commonly used as an antiviral. Prophylaxis dose: 75 mg once daily. Treatment dose: 75 mg twice daily

Tamiflu is renally adjusted for those with CrCl < 60 mL/min. Contact Green Tree Pharmacy if you need assistance with dosing.



AUVELITY- new FDA Approval 8-22:

Auvelity is a novel oral combination of **dextromethorphan**, an uncompetitive N-methyl D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist and sigma-1 receptor agonist, and **bupropion**, an aminoketone and CYP450 2D6 inhibitor.

Auvelity is the first and only rapid-acting oral treatment approved with labeling of statistically significant improvement in depressive symptoms compared to placebo starting at 1 week. It uses a new approach to treat Major Depressive Disorder that is different from other oral antidepressants approved in more than 60 years.

It is available as an extended-release tablet with a start dose of Dextromethorphan 45mg/bupropion 105mg once daily. After 3 days, increase to dextromethorphan 45 mg/bupropion 105 mg twice daily (maximum dose).

It requires dose adjustment for moderate renal impairment and is not recommended with an eGFR < 30 mL/min (has not been studied).

Warning/Caution: seizure disorder (due to bupropion component), increased blood pressure, activation of mania/hypomania – Auvelity is not approved for bipolar depression, psychosis.

Adverse reactions: dizziness (16%), headache (8%), diarrhea (7%), somnolence (7%), dry mouth (6%), sexual dysfunction (6%), and hyperhidrosis (5%).

 **Auvelity™**
(dextromethorphan HBr and bupropion HCl),
extended-release tablets 45mg/105mg