

Clinical Acorns and Guidelines

Medication Safety Facts...

Corticosteroids for COVID-19 seem to decrease mortality in COVID-19 patients requiring supplemental oxygen, especially in those who require ventilation, in the hospital setting.

Potential adverse effects of corticosteroids include hyperglycemia, agitation, confusion, and infection risk.

Rumor vs. Truth...

Rumor...
Resident's cannot get another vaccine with their covid vaccine

Truth...
You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. You no longer need to wait 14 days between vaccinations. Co-administration isn't expected to increase side effects...or impact immune response.

Regulatory Update/Review

According to F759 and section 483.45 (f) of the state operations manual, a facility must maintain medication error rates below 5% and all residents should be free of significant medication errors.

Your Green Tree Consultant Pharmacist can observe your facility med-pass and review opportunities to avoid common errors and reduce the likelihood of being tagged during the survey process.



Clinical News Update

October is American Pharmacists Month.

Your Green Tree pharmacists have specialized knowledge in geriatric pharmacotherapy, and reduce medication related problems and improve therapeutic outcomes. The entire medication regimen, including those taken "prn" are carefully reviewed to determine whether the product is necessary, dosed correctly, safe, and affordable.

Semglee

FDA approved the first interchangeable Biosimilar insulin, Semglee on July 28th, 2021.

Biosimilars are not generics. Biologics are made from living organisms and contain larger, more complex molecules than most traditional drugs.

Biosimilars have to show similar safety, purity, and potency as the reference biologic. But an "interchangeable" biosimilar is also shown to give the same CLINICAL result.

Semglee is the first biosimilar to have this kind of evidence. It provides similar A1c lowering at 6 months compared to Lantus, with a similar rate of hypoglycemia.

An interchangeable biosimilar CAN be automatically substituted without a new rx, like a generic.

Semglee is cost effective, costing about \$100/vial or \$150/box of 5 pens. Compare this to Lantus which is about \$240/vial or \$360/box of 5 pens.



Clinical Focus: REGEN-COV

REGEN-COV (casirivimab/imdevimab), is a monoclonal antibody used to treat COVID-19 and recently was approved for prophylaxis of COVID-19 for high risk-immunocompromised residents exposed to the virus.

REGEN-COV binds to SARS-CoV-2 and prevents it from binding to human receptors and infecting cells.

Dosing Guidelines:

- Given as four simultaneous 2.5 mL subcutaneous injections, in 4 separate quadrants in one of the following locations: upper back of arm, thigh, or abdomen (avoiding 2 inch region around navel)
- Following the initial prophylactic dose, successive doses with casirivimab 300mg and imdevimab 300mg once every 4 weeks for the duration of ongoing exposure are recommended.
- Also can be given IV infusion 600mg casirivimab/600mg imdevimab in 50 mL NS IV infusion given over ≤ 180 mL/hour.
- Monitor patients for 1 hour afterward for any infusion related reactions or hypersensitivity. Common side effects: nausea, infusion site reactions, and headache

Residents will still need to isolate after receiving REGEN-COV. It is not a cure and does not prevent the spread of infection. Patients must wait 90 days after monoclonal antibodies are given before they are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

