

What we've been doing...

Green Tree Pharmacy has dispensed over 355,000 prescriptions in 2023 to over 6,000 residents in our 128 facilities throughout Illinois and Indiana. We are now licensed in Wisconsin and look to grow our family of facilities in the coming years.

In addition, our consultant pharmacists have reviewed over 16,500 resident charts in 2023. With nearly 6,000 recommendations made and greater than 48% acceptance rate from providers, our consultants have saved over 870 hours of nursing time with reduced medication administration and procedures.

Rumor vs. Truth...

Rumor... A resident on PRN Ativan for seizures does not need a stop date.

Truth... Any medication that affects brain activity ARE subject to psychotropic medication requirements. CMS requires an initial 14-day duration, then continuing for a specified duration with proper documentation.

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.



News from Our COVID updates:

MONOVALENT Pfizer/ Moderna are no longer authorized for use in the United States.

Only about 17% of people in the US have had a bivalent dose. Adults who have had a bivalent vaccine continue to have a lower risk of urgent care visits and hospitalizations than those who haven't...even with circulating variants.

Recommend 1 dose of bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for those 6 years and up who haven't had a bivalent dose, regardless of prior vaccination.

Offer a second bivalent dose for patients 65 years and up if it's been at least 4 months since their prior bivalent dose.

New Products:

The first two respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines were both FDA approved May 2023 for prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in those 60 years of age and older. Pfizer's product: Abrysvo & GSK product: Arexvy.

Sotagliflozin (Inpefa) is an SGLT2 inhibitor that was FDA approved May 2023 to treat heart failure

Highlights

Hot Topics: Updates/ New Products p1

New Products / Supply Issues p1

Operations Tips and Tricks p1
BPH p2

Regulatory Update / Review p2

Pharmacy Team Spotlight: Jenna Thorp, Administrative Assistant



Jenna joined our Green Tree Pharmacy team in September of 2021. As our Administrative Assistant, she shows her "Happy to

Oblige" by being a team player and always willing to help others no matter what department. Jenna wears many hats by helping with our drivers and leading the team as our H to O trainer. Day in and day out, Jenna strives to create a supportive, positive, and caring work environment. We are proud to have her as a part of our work family and always look forward to her team building activities!

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

July 10: Chronic Disease Day

August: National Immunization Month

September: Prostate Health Month; National Suicide Prevention Month; National Pain Awareness Month

Clinical Acorns and Guidelines

Regulatory Update/ Review

USP <800> Hazardous Drugs (HD):

The elements of USP <800> include receipt, storage, compounding, dispensing, administration, disposal, and cleaning.

HD medications that are bulk or in blister cards will be delivered with HD auxiliary labels to alert nursing staff there may be certain PPE required when handling. Liquids will come in HD plastic bag for further protection.

Each facility is responsible for their own policies and procedures on how their employees should handle HD medications and what PPE they feel is necessary.

An Assessment of Risk should be completed for each dosage form of HD medication. Green Tree Pharmacy can provide a list of HD medications that are in their inventory.

It is also suggested to avoid manipulating HD when possible, such as crushing tablets and opening capsules.

PODS:

Facilities should never contact the backup pharmacy directly. Follow Green Tree's On-Call procedure by calling our pharmacy directly and go through PODS, who will contact a backup pharmacy and arrange delivery for you.



Clinical Focus: RSV

RSV is a highly contagious virus that causes infections of the lungs and breathing passages in individuals of all age groups. RSV circulation is seasonal, typically starting in fall and peaks in winter. In older adults, RSV can lead to life threatening pneumonia and bronchiolitis, which can lead to hospitalizations and death. Adults who are at highest risk for severe RSV infection include: older adults especially those 65 years and up, adults with chronic heart or lung disease, and adults with weakened immune systems.

This fall, there will be a first time RSV vaccine, Arexvy by GSK. The safety and effectiveness of Arexvy is based on the FDA's analysis of data from an ongoing, randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial conducted in the U.S. and internationally in individuals 60 years of age and older. Participants will remain in the study through three RSV seasons to continually assess the duration of effectiveness and safety of repeat vaccination.

In this study, ~12,500 participants received Arexvy and ~12,500 received placebo. The participants who received Arexvy, had significantly reduced the risk of developing RSV associated lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) by 82.6% and had a reduced risk of developing severe RSV associated LRTD by 94.1%.

Abrysvo vaccine by Pfizer efficacy was 66.7% against RSV associated LRTD with at least 2 symptoms and 85.7% with at least 3 symptoms.

The most common reported side effects of both RSV vaccines include injection site pain, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, and joint stiffness/pain.

Both RSV vaccines are reconstituted vaccines administered as 0.5 mL IM.

GSK and Pfizer are expected to have the RSV vaccines available this fall.

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH):

About 6 in 10 men develop BPH by age 60... leading to urinary hesitancy, nocturia, a weak stream, etc.

Nondrug measures include limiting fluids at bedtime, alcohol, and caffeine. Reinforce exercise...strengthening pelvic floor muscles may improve bladder control and urination.

Medications such as diuretics or anticholinergics (oxybutynin, etc) may exacerbate BPH symptoms.

Tamsulosin or other alpha-blockers are typically first line.

Doxazosin and terazosin are on the Beers Criteria due to dizziness and hypotension. Any alpha blocker can cause orthostatic hypotension and increase risk of falls. Advise to rise slowly.

Dutasteride or finasteride, a 5-alpha-reductase inhibitor, can be added to an alpha-blocker if BPH symptoms do not improve after 4 to 12 weeks. However, these can take 6 to 12 months for max effects.

Saw palmetto doesn't seem to have much benefit for BPH, and interacts with blood thinning drugs (aspirin, warfarin, Plavix).

Rexulti (brexpiprazole):

The FDA approved Rexulti for the treatment of agitation in patients with dementia due to Alzheimer's. Originally approved as an atypical antipsychotic used for schizophrenia, or an adjunct therapy for major depressive disorder, Rexulti finds itself alone as the only medication for this indication.

