

Advance Care Pharmacy

Spring, 2019 Newsletter

Maryam Sharafsaleh, Pharm.D.
Angela Forcucci, Pharm.D.

Advance Care Pharmacy Website

We are happy to announce the launch of our new website:

<http://www.advancecarepharmacy.com>

From this site, you can access a variety of information including hospice and long-term care services, sterile and non-sterile compounding, and additional pharmacy resources. Under the Forms and Training link, previous newsletters and updates are available, as well as YouTube videos for the operation of the infusion pump that we use for the continuous delivery of intravenous and subcutaneous medications. The latest version of our drug formulary (2019 Hospice Drug Recommendations) is also located in the Forms and Training link using the password **advancecare1**. Drug recommendations for the management of specific symptoms, with dosages and cost comparisons, are provided. This formulary is an invaluable resource for all hospice clinicians.

Pharmacy Hours

Advance Care Pharmacy provides around-the-clock service to all of our hospice agencies. Our store hours are from **9:00am to 1:00 am**, seven days a week. During this time, a pharmacist is present in the pharmacy at one, or both, of our store locations. From 1:00am to 9:00am, we offer an after-hours on-call service when the phone is answered by a third party and routed to the appropriate personnel. After hours calls that are noted as non-urgent will be returned as soon as staff is available that same morning.

Influenza Vaccine

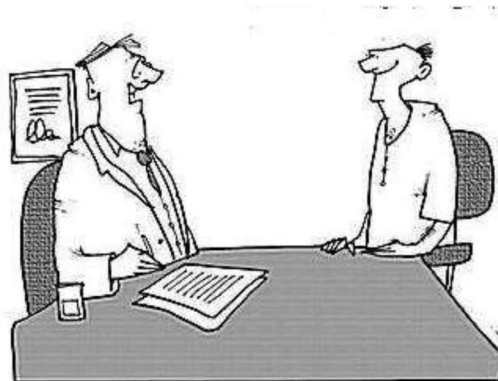
We began taking pre-orders for the flu vaccine this month. Early orders not only guarantee fulfillment, they also allow for the best pricing. Please assess the needs of your agency and get your order in early. This year, we are offering **Flucelvax®** (quadrivalent) vaccine in both multi-dose vials and pre-filled syringes. Flucelvax® is indicated for patients 4 years of age and older. Additionally, we can fulfill orders for **Fluzone® High Dose** (trivalent) vaccine, for patients 65 years and older. A pre-order form for influenza vaccines was emailed to your hospice point-of-contact and can be found on our website www.advancecarepharmacy.com, under the Forms and Training link. You can also request a form be emailed or faxed to you by calling the pharmacy. The pre-order deadline is **May 31, 2019**.

Drug Shortages

Drug shortages continue to affect the options available for the treatment of many symptoms and illnesses. Drug recalls, manufacturing delays, and pharmacy allocation all result in medication deficits. According to the FDA, the following frequently prescribed hospice medications are unavailable or in short supply:

- dexamethasone injection
- diphenhydramine injection
- fentanyl injection
- haloperidol tablet (liquid available)
- hydromorphone injection
- ketamine injection
- lidocaine injection
- lorazepam injection
- metoclopramide injection
- methadone injection
- morphine injection
- nystatin oral solution
- promethazine injection
- scopolamine patch (brand available)

Please call the pharmacy to inquire about certain drugs that may not be available, prior to admitting a patient. Although not noted in the list, many injectable antibiotics and inotropic medications are also currently unavailable. It is imperative to discuss supply and possible alternatives prior to hospice admission.



There's a drug shortage. I'm thinking of replacing your meds with eight hugs a day before & after meals!

Make it a STAT!

Advance Care Pharmacy offers several delivery options depending on the urgency of the delivery. Routine/same day delivery will be delivered the same day, usually within 6-8 hours from when the order was placed. Next day delivery will be delivered the following day. It will not be delivered by a certain time (i.e., by noon), unless specified. Please do not assume that next day deliveries will be done in the morning without requesting so. STAT deliveries will be made within 3 hours of placing the order for oral medications, and within 4 hours, for infusion orders. Non-sterile compounds may not be ordered STAT. Please audit your patient's medications frequently so that orders can be placed accordingly. Refills for routine medications should not be ordered STAT. This results in unnecessary charges billed to your agency. Additionally, for non-STAT medications that are needed by a certain time, please communicate that to the pharmacy. Do not assume that a same day delivery will automatically be made in time for the patient's next dose.

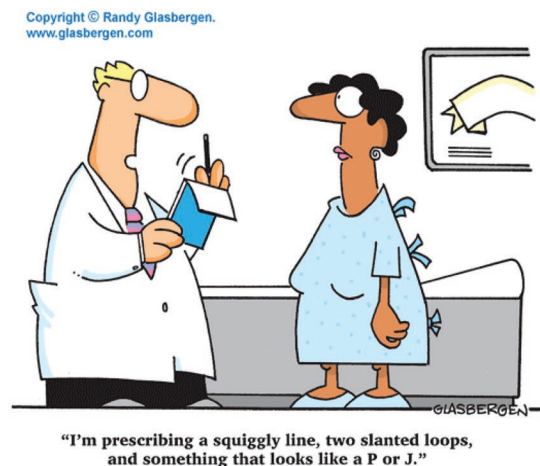
Alternative Supplements

Cannabidiol, or CBD, (not THC) belongs to a class of molecules called cannabinoids and is recognized as providing many health and wellness promoting benefits. Some of the advantages of CBD include relief from pain, inflammation, and anxiety. Care Beyond has formulated several products that may provide relief for mild-moderate symptoms, when opioids are not indicated or wish to be avoided. The **Excel Patch** contains 20mg of CBD and is used to treat day to day pain, soreness, and inflammation. **Thera-Melt** is a quick dissolving tablet, containing 25mg of CBD, and is associated with pain relief and immune support. **Tranquility**, a 25mg CBD capsule, may help optimize mood, combat anxiety, and assist with sleep and relaxation. Many patients have experienced symptom relief and improved overall well-being with CBD. Note that Care Beyond products have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and are not intended to diagnose, treat, or prevent any disease. For additional information and to place orders, please contact Shellee Amarillas (714) 396-6283. <https://www.carebeyond.com/>



Electronic Prescribing

In September, 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law, AB 2789, mandating electronic prescribing for all medications, including opioids and other controlled substances. All prescribers and pharmacies must comply by January 1, 2022. The bill will require a prescription to be issued as an electronic data transmission, unless specified exceptions are met (i.e., temporary technological or electronic failure; hospital emergency or urgent care prescriptions). Faxing a prescription to the pharmacy does not meet this obligation. The benefits of electronic prescribing are numerous, including preventing fraudulent prescriptions and diversion. Electronic prescribing will authorize fulfillment of controlled substances (emergency and non-emergency fills for terminally-ill patients) and alleviate transmission errors. There are several DEA requirements that must be met by the practitioner, such as provider identity proofing, logical access control, two-factor authentication, and other reporting requirements. ACP encourages all hospice agencies to start planning for and implementing this new ruling.



Nurses On-Demand

IV RN STAT Healthcare Staffing is nursing agency that is available to assist your hospice with intravenous infusion services on an as-needed basis. When an RN is required for the care of a patient, and you are short-staffed and/or don't have the appropriately trained professional available, IV RN STAT can support your organization by filling this void. Services include peripheral IV insertion, peripheral and central line care and teaching, and the management of many intravenous therapies. Serving all of Los Angeles County, IV RN STAT can be reached at (213) 909-8662 or <https://ivrnstat.com/>.

Cost-Effective Alternatives

One of our goals is to reduce the cost of medication expenditures for our hospice agencies. We do so by recommending cost-effective alternatives and/or notifying prescribers when generics are available. The following drugs are a few suggestions when considering more costly medications.

1. Ventolin® HFA inhaler is now available as generic **albuterol sulfate HFA** inhaler.
2. **clobetasol topical** 0.05% (Temovate®) ointment and cream, indicated for dermatoses and psoriasis, is now available at a lower price.

Unused Medications

California law prohibits the return of drugs to the pharmacy once they have been dispensed. Any unused medications must be disposed of properly to avoid harm to others. Visit the DEA's website:

http://deادiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/index.html,

or call 1-800—882-9539 for more information and to find an authorized collector in your community. ACP is not licensed as a reverse distributor and cannot accept the return of medications from deceased or discharged patients. Drug "Take Back" programs are a good opportunity to dispose of unused medications. If no programs are available in your area, the medications can be disposed of in the following manner. Remove them from their original container and mix them with water to dissolve the medication. Pour the mixture into used coffee grounds, dirt, or kitty litter, making it undesirable and unrecognizable to others. Seal the contents in a zip lock bag, or empty can, and place in the trash. Remember to adhere to individual hospice and facility protocols when disposing of unused medications. Ask your organization's management for information and assistance.

Tiger Text

The majority of our hospice agencies are using Tiger Text as a secure, HIPAA compliant, source of communication between the nurses and the pharmacy. It has decreased the time callers spend waiting to speak to pharmacy staff, as well as the amount of calls coming into the pharmacy. Please keep in mind, that all Tiger Texts will be confirmed by pharmacy personnel. If a response to your text is not received, the text may not have gone through due to technical difficulties. When texting, please provide your name so we know who is ordering medications. Lastly, and most importantly, **do not order STAT medications via Tiger Text, unless you follow up with a phone call to the pharmacy.** This is essential in order to notify the pharmacy about the need to expedite the prescription, initiate processing, and arrange for delivery.

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"Laughter is the best medicine,
but there's a \$50 co-pay."

Welcome New Hospices

Advance Care Pharmacy provides pharmacy services to over 200 hospice organizations throughout Southern California. We would like to extend a warm welcome to several new hospices that have joined us recently:

Covenant Hospice
Golden Touch Hospice
Hera Hospice
Radiant Hospice
Right Choice Hospice
Seacoast Hospice Care
Spring Meadow Hospice

St. Jude Hospice
Unicare Hospice Providers
Unified Hospice
Victory Hospice
Vista Hospice Care
West Coast Hospice - Long Beach

Advance Care Pharmacy

Specializing in Hospice and Long Term Care
With TWO locations serving all of Southern California:

528 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 489-7077
FAX : (760) 489-7040
acphospice@advcarerx.com
Hours: 9:00am-1:00am
24 hours on call service

320 Bonnie Circle
Corona, CA 92880
(951) 256-8800
FAX: (951) 284-4594
info@advcarerx.com
Hours: 9:00am-9:00pm
24 hour on call service

Quality Assurance: Lisa Leon (760) 489-7077 x 323
NDC Reporting: Jordan Hocsan (760) 489-7077 x 330
CII Fax Questions: Monique (Escondido)
Matthew (Corona)