

In the Know With



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

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*The Connection
Between Flu Shots
& COVID-19*

PLUS:

- An update on the COVID-19 Availability
- Preparing for the 2021-2022 Flu Season
- 2021 Changes to Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage



Our mission is to improve the **quality of life** of individuals living with developmental, physical or psychiatric disabilities, the elderly, and economically disadvantaged individuals by providing pharmaceutical stewardship with **caring, compassion and commitment**.



An Exciting Update from Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy about the COVID-19 Vaccine

At Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy, we continually look for ways to serve the facilities we work with and the patients they represent. We are excited to report that after receiving approval for the COVID-19 Vaccine, we have started to receive a limited supply of the vaccine. The vaccine supply is not available to the general public - only clients, staff and patients of Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy and will be administered in accordance with the State of New York Guidelines.

We expect to receive more soon and we will certainly keep you up to date as things progress. But please know that serving you is our top priority. We will work hard to ensure that enough vaccines are obtained and reserved for the patients we serve.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website to stay up to date on the latest news regarding the vaccine availability. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Our team is devoted to doing what is in the best interest of the patient. This is at the forefront of Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy's mission and heart.



One of the ways we have prepared for supplying the COVID-19 vaccine is a special freezer that keeps the vaccine at the specific required temperature of - 71 degrees.

A Letter From Our CEO

A new year brings new hope, new perspectives, and a new opportunity to serve new clients and patients with the compassion they deserve. Our hope, like many of yours I'm sure, is that 2021 will be a much better year than the previous. Although 2020 was a rough year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what we're grateful for last year. Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy served over **400 residential** facilities and agencies, filled **over 300,000** prescriptions and had **10** members join our team.

The reason those numbers matter is because they represent hundreds of individuals who are receiving the medications they need to improve their quality of life.

As The Arc Sullivan-Orange Counties merges with The Arc Dutchess, we are proud to include The Arc Dutchess under our umbrella of care. The combined agency is now The Arc Greater Hudson Valley and we look forward to partnering with them to provide the best in pharmaceutical care for the people they serve.

We can't stress enough how much we care about the developmentally disabled and we understand them in a way that few other pharmacies do. All of the decisions that we make are based upon how it will impact the lives of those that we serve. They are our top priority. And we know they are yours too, or you wouldn't be doing what you do.



Trust me, I know it's not always easy. I understand the issues facility homes are faced with. Our company was built by four agencies, which all previously cared for the developmentally disabled. The executives from these four agencies were not happy with the service they were receiving from pharmacies. After dealing with unnecessary service issues with medication deliveries, these agencies saw the opportunity to provide a service that could offer people with outstanding, attentive and intentional pharmacy care. Now, 10 years later, Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy is meeting those needs in facility care communities throughout the Hudson Valley, Long Island, Catskills, and Albany region.

If you're not already our client, we'd be honored to become your pharmacy of choice.

**Best Wishes,
Angelo Angerame**

**CEO, Hudson Regional
Long Term Care Pharmacy**



**Call us today to Discover the Difference
in your pharmacy care. 845-341-2700**

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*2020 Innovation in Philanthropy Award
presented by the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the
Association of Fundraising Professionals*

*2019 Honoree for the
Outstanding Service Award
presented by the CLC Foundation*

The Connection Between the Flu Vaccine and COVID-19

Early research suggests that receiving the flu vaccine may help protect individuals from COVID-19.

It's important to note that this research is still fairly new and has not yet been peer-reviewed. However, the research is notable and promising enough that many doctors are sharing this information with their patients.

Mihai Netea, an infectious disease immunologist at Radboud University Medical Center in the Netherlands, and his colleagues performed a study with interesting results.

In Netea's study, research showed that those who had previously received a flu vaccine were 39% less likely to contract COVID-19. Of the employees at the medical center who had received the vaccine, 1.33% contracted COVID-19. However, of the employees who had not received the vaccine, 2.23% contracted the virus.

The thought process behind this correlation is something called "trained innate immunity." Under this school of thought, certain vaccines don't just strengthen immune systems against certain viruses. These vaccines strengthen the immune system as a whole, resulting in an immune system more primed to fight off infections.

There is a significant amount of emerging research supporting the trained innate immunity theory. If this theory proves true, it provides support for Netea's research.

Important Considerations Regarding Netea's Research

Since Netea's research is still relatively new and not peer-reviewed yet, there are a few questions that it raises.

First, it can't necessarily be proved as a cause and effect. In other words, due to the surrounding circumstances, there's no way to prove that the flu shot is definitively the cause of the lower infections. While it may be, and likely is, a contributing factor, there are other factors that could be at play, too.

For example, Netea notes that those that choose to get the flu vaccine may be more health-conscious overall. In other words, these may be the individuals more likely to stick to CDC guidelines, thereby decreasing their odds of getting the virus.

Although it can't be proved definitively at this point, though, the research is still intriguing. The idea of trained innate immunity may be a theory that continues to develop as a way of fighting the COVID-19 vaccine.

While there are still many unknowns circulating, scientists and researchers continue to work diligently to provide safe and effective vaccines and methods for fighting the virus. In the meantime, as news breaks and circulates, you can count on us to bring you the important updates.

Changes Happening to Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage in 2021

A new year comes with new changes including those who are enrolled into Medicare Part D. Here are a few changes we wanted to highlight to keep you apprised.

- The maximum allowable deductible for standard Part D prescription drug plans will be \$445 in 2021, which is up from \$435 in 2020.
- The out-of-pocket threshold (where catastrophic coverage begins) will increase to \$6,550 in 2021 (up from \$6,350 out-of-pocket in 2020). Once you get out of the coverage gap (Medicare prescription drug coverage), you automatically get "catastrophic coverage." It assures you only pay a small coinsurance amount or copayment for covered drugs for the rest of the year.
- Medicare beneficiaries with Part D coverage can now access insulin with a co-pay of \$35 a month in 2021. This is expected to save beneficiaries hundreds of dollars per year.
- According to Medicare Resources, the Affordable Care Act has closed the donut hole in Medicare Part D. As of 2020, there is no longer a "hole" for brand-name or generic drugs: Enrollees in standard Part D plans pay 25 percent of the cost (after meeting their deductible) until they reach the catastrophic coverage threshold.

To learn more about how to get prescription drug coverage, what Medicare Part D drug plans cover, the cost for Medicare drug coverage or how Part D works with other insurance, visit the Medicare website.

If you have questions about your long-term care residents' Medicare Part D prescription medications, please call us at (845) 341-2700. Our pharmacists at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy are experts in drug regimen review and would be glad to assist.

After Hours and Emergency Care

At Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy, we provide 24/7 Service and Support. During any emergency including those weather related and typical after hours care, we can help you. Simply call our regular office line at (845) 341-2700 and press "1". Your call will then be forwarded to the on-call Pharmacist. We are always here to help and support you.

Preparation Begins For the 2021-2022 Flu Vaccine

It might seem early to be thinking about the flu vaccine for the 2021-2022 flu season, but this is the time that pharmacies and practices begin planning and ordering. In the coming weeks, Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy will be reaching out to all of the long-term care facilities and agencies we serve to begin ordering the appropriate amounts of vaccines.

Every year, our team at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy puts on flu clinics for each of our customers. From August through October each year, all of the healthcare providers at the agencies we serve receive the flu vaccine. After that, all of the residents/patients receive their flu vaccine.

"Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy was so successful in getting the flu vaccine to all of their customers," said Angelo Angerame CEO at Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy speaking about the 2020-2021 flu season. "We made sure all of our agencies received it."

Our team at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is present, ready and available to answer any flu (or COVID-19) vaccine related questions that you or your patients might have. Although we are not physically located within your facility, we are an extension to your facility with 24/7 service and support to help your nursing teams and patients they care for.

Providing Value Beyond Medication

Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy's mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals living with developmental, physical or psychiatric disabilities, the elderly, and economically disadvantaged individuals by providing pharmaceutical stewardship with caring, compassion and commitment. We provide quality pharmaceutical products, durable medical equipment and supplies, dependable service, specialized information, and customized training.



Medications need to be ordered on a timely basis, and we know it is labor-intensive caring for your patients. HRLTCP's staff has the tools and resources you need to give your team peace of mind and time to focus on your residents.

Your Partner in Healthcare

Our goal is to provide our clients with the highest level of quality, accuracy, and efficiency in the management and coordination of pharmacy services. We accomplish this monumental task through the development of strong working relationships with clients, staff, nursing, and administration.

Thorough Tracking & Regulatory Compliance

Combining the highest standards of pharmaceutical knowledge with modern management techniques and state-of-the-art technology, enables the pharmacy to effectively monitor client drug regimens for potential drug interaction issues, allergies, and therapeutic duplications in order to achieve desired outcomes.

*We recognize the importance of choosing the **best fit** when it comes to a **long-term care pharmacy** for your facility. We are dedicated to earning your patronage and helping you in taking the **best care** of your patients.*



Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is Medicaid and Medicare (including Part B) approved and is accredited by the Joint Commission.

A Complete Range of Healthcare Products & Services

Starting with high-quality brand name and generic medications, purchased directly from approved wholesalers and distributors, our certified pharmacists can fill a wide range of prescriptions. To complement our extensive pharmacy services, we also stock a full line of healthcare products that can be conveniently ordered and delivered with your medication orders. We fully recognize the current market conditions and the impact of reduced funding and budget restrictions. We are committed to your complete satisfaction and will provide cost-effective solutions.

Total Convenience & Efficiency

From ordering and daily deliveries to medication administration records and review, we offer a high level of convenience and efficiency to our clients. To expedite the ordering process, we accept E-Prescribing, facsimiles, and offer highly efficient web access ordering. We provide our clients with the ability to look up and print current prescriptions and print up-to-date MARs as needed.

Services Provided

Service That Lets You Focus More on Patients

Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, we understand that facilities are apprehensive when it comes to choosing a new pharmacy to partner with. But rest assured that we do as much of the heavy lifting as we can for our facilities. It can be overwhelming for staff and nurses to get all of a patient's information over to the pharmacy. We do everything we can to make sure the load is as light as possible so your healthcare staff can spend more time with the patients and not have to spend time dealing with problems.

We work directly with Administrators, Nursing Directors, and other staff to create strong working relationships which is the foundation for excellent service.

We currently provide services to:

- Respite facilities
- Intermediate care facilities
- Assisted living facilities
- Residential care facilities
- Group homes and individual supported living
- Behavioral treatment and rehabilitation facilities
- Chemical Dependency recovery facilities

Medical Records to Maximize Efficiency

We offer completely customizable medical record documents for our customers. Our medical records team will work directly with the facility nursing department to develop easy to use documents which will save your staff time and decrease medication errors. We can provide a wide range of documents to fit your needs.

Drug Regimen Specialists

Our pharmacists and nurses are experts in drug regimen review.

A thorough review of each resident's profile is performed at a predetermined schedule developed with the facility nursing department in accordance with regulations and facility guidelines. We assist our customers in controlling medication use and controlling costs by identifying unnecessary and/or inappropriate medication orders and duplicate therapies.

If requested, our pharmacist will attend the facility's quality control committee meetings and provide periodic reports and recommendations to facility management.

Quality Assurance That Gives Patients Timely & Accurate Medication Dispensing

Our goal is 100% accuracy; every order, every day!

We have implemented state-of-the-art technology throughout the pharmacy to provide outstanding attention to detail when processing customer orders. Utilizing barcode technology, we ensure the highest degree of accuracy. From scanning refills to NDC verified medications and electronic deliveries, our dedicated team ensures each order is accurate and processed in a timely manner.

Access to 24/7 Service Support

We are available for your urgent needs, holiday included.

We are fully staffed during regular business hours of operation, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. On Saturday, we are open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to handle emergency orders. Our evening and weekend on-call services are available during after-business hours and holidays for emergency needs and pharmacist consultation if required.

We are a paperless pharmacy. All orders coming into the pharmacy are electronically stored and accessible. Our pharmacy management system manages all documents for easy retrieval.



Discover the Difference

Is your facility dealing with everyday pharmacy issues taking up unnecessary time out of your day? You should **not** have this problem.

Your pharmacy should work like the operating system on your computer. You never think about it, it's just there. That's the way the pharmacy you work with should be. You shouldn't have to worry and you should always have peace of mind in knowing that your patients are going to be taken care of. That's what we aspire to and that is the Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy difference.

Call us today to Discover the Difference in your pharmacy care.

► **845-341-2700**

What Our Clients are Saying

"Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy has honestly been the most organized & reliable pharmacy I have worked with in my 20+ year as an RN/DON in the ID/DD field. The proficiency and personalized attention with which Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy has devoted our agency and each individual that we support has made a huge difference."

- Faydra Geraghty
RN/DON at The Arc Mid-Hudson

Staff Spotlight



Mike Kolman
Supervising Pharmacist

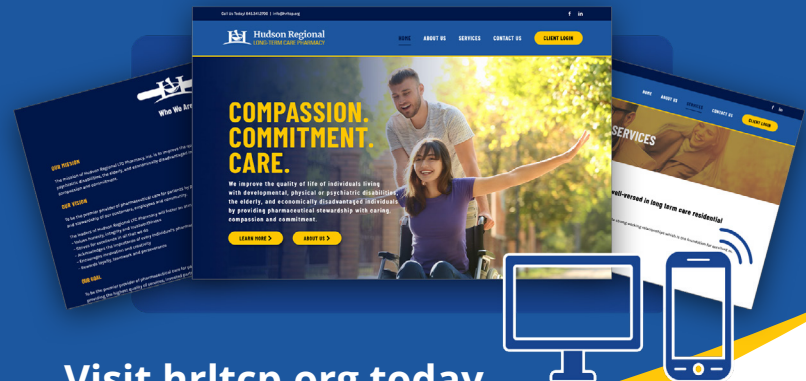
Mike has been with Hudson Regional since we opened our doors over 10 years ago.

Here's what Mike had to say about his job:

"What I love about this business versus other long term care pharmacies I've worked for is that here we're not just a vendor, we are a partner in healthcare. For many other pharmacies, it's just a business. For us, it's more than that. Our pharmacy has a culture of caring. Everyone who works here actually cares. It's not just a job."

New Website

We'd love for you to see our brand new website, designed specifically with you in mind.



Visit hrltcp.org today



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

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