

# In the Know With



Hudson Regional  
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

February 2021 • Issue #003

## In This Issue **ANSWERS** On Covid-19 Vaccine & It's Safety



**PLUS**

- **Clinical Trial: The Efficacy and Safety of the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine**
- **A Letter From Our CEO**

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*.





## What is the Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy Difference?

What drives our team each and every day is doing what is in the best interest for our patients. The right thing [whatever that might look like] for our patients is always on the forefront of our mission. We want you and your staff to know that we are always here. We love people to call and ask questions about anything. At Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, we also offer web portal trainings for the facility staff that we're serving as well as any type of training that is requested. We want to ensure your experience with our services are seamless and stress-free so you can expect more and worry less. That is the Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy Difference!

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

## Visit Our New Website



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

- Informative blog articles to update you on the latest industry trends and news.
- Client Portal to easily access your records and account.
- Learn how we can upgrade your Long-Term Care Pharmacy experience.

[www.hrltcp.org](http://www.hrltcp.org)



## A Letter From Our CEO

The year is off to a fast and promising start, but it's so important to pause and be mindful of the small victories along the way. The Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna is now being distributed across the country and we are happy to see the progress taking place to ensure the health and safety of our facility partners and the patients we serve. We're looking forward to the federal government becoming involved and hopefully accelerating the pace that we all receive these vaccines. While vaccine distribution is happening, it will take time to reach everyone so we must continue to wear our masks. They are not going away for quite some time.

The first of the year is also an extremely busy time due to the changes in insurance plans. I would like to recognize our team and the facilities we serve on how everyone handled this process with excellence. Please know we are always here to help if any challenges arise.

This month also begins the start of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy serving The Arc

Greater Hudson Valley, a not-for-profit agency created in January 2021 (formerly known as Arc Sullivan-Orange Counties and the Arc Dutchess). This organization is dedicated to providing support to over 2,000 people with disabilities and their families in Sullivan, Orange, and Dutchess Counties. Our team is delighted to serve this incredible organization that supports people with unique abilities to live as valued and contributing members of the community.

We would like to thank all of our facility partners for their continued patronage. Our staff is committed to serving you. We will continue to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic together, the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine and will continue to stay vigilant in providing you with the utmost safety and service.

***Yours in Health,***  
**Angelo Angerame**

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



**Expect More & Worry Less**  
**with Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy.**

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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*



## Questions & Concerns: Is the **Covid-19** Vaccine Safe?

The development of the Covid-19 vaccines have also come with a large number of questions from the population. One of the most presumably urgent questions is the efficacy of the vaccine. We wanted to provide insightful research from Johns Hopkins Medicine on the research and development of the Covid-19 vaccine and its safety.

The U.S. vaccine safety system works to make sure all vaccines are made as safe as possible. The following key areas are part of the Covid-19 vaccine development and authorization process.

- **Careful testing.** The process of developing a vaccine must undergo extensive testing. Each vaccine must go through clinical trials to test its safety and effectiveness. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) set rigorous standards for the vaccine developers to meet. The National Institutes of Health also requires vaccines to undergo four phases before being released to the public.
- **Authorization for emergency use.** Once vaccines meet the FDA safety and effectiveness standards, they can then be made available in the U.S. by approval or by emergency use authorization (EUA). EUA provides temporary authorization of a vaccine or medication under emergency situations, which in this case is the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Ongoing monitoring for problems and side effects.** Monitoring continues once a vaccine is authorized for use with systems in place to track problems or side effects that were not detected during clinical trials. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which is a national monitoring program run by the FDA and CDC, collects and reviews reports of any health problems that develop after a person receives a vaccine. Any person, including patients and healthcare professionals, can submit a report. If problems arise with a vaccine, they can be identified and addressed.

According to Johns Hopkins Medical, none of the vaccine trials have reported any serious safety concerns. Both trials for Pfizer and Moderna have fully independent safety monitoring boards with data that is continuously reviewed by the FDA.

The CDC says people with allergies to certain foods, insects, latex and other common allergens can have the Covid-19 vaccine. Those with a history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to injectables or other vaccines should discuss the vaccination with their doctor, who can evaluate the person and assess their risk. According to the CDC, at this time, anyone who has a severe allergy (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine ingredients should not receive this vaccine.

## Clinical Trial: The Efficacy & Safety of the **Moderna Covid-19** Vaccine

The New England Journal of Medicine reported in a randomized, double-blind trial that two doses of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine (SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine) were safe and provided 94% efficacy against Covid-19 symptoms in people 18 or older.

In this clinical trial, 30,420 participants, 18 years and older, were assigned to receive either the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine or placebo. These injections were administered twice, and 28 days apart. Participants were under monitoring for safety and the development of laboratory-confirmed symptomatic Covid-19 for a median of 2 months after their second dose.

### Results

In the group of 14,500 people who received the Covid-19 vaccine, 11 were symptomatic with Covid-19 and no one was reported to have severe Covid-19.

In the group of 14,598 people who received the placebo, 185 were symptomatic with Covid-19 and 30 had severe Covid-19 symptoms.

### Safety

The vaccine recipients had higher rates of pain, erythema, swelling, headache, fatigue, myalgia than placebo recipients. Most reactions were mild to moderate and resolved over 1 to 3 days.

### Efficacy

The occurrence of Covid-19 was lower among vaccine recipients than among placebo recipients as early as 14 days after receiving the first dose. Even during the period of follow-up, protection against the vaccine persisted for those who received the Covid-19 vaccine.

## Remaining Questions

**While further study is required, these are the following questions that remain:**

- Safety and efficacy over a longer period of time, in a larger population and in pregnant women and children.
- If the vaccine protects against asymptomatic infection.
- The transmission to unvaccinated persons.
- How to care for those who do not receive/miss the second vaccine dose.





## 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

## Customizable 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

The Medication Administration Records (MARs) at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy can be completely customizable to fit the needs of your patients. These MARs can be formatted in a portrait or landscape format, and we also have the ability to add or remove the doctor's name. They can look any way that you need them, just ask our team how we can help.

**Call Us Today to Discover the Difference in Your Pharmacy Care.**

► **845-341-2700**

## Staff Spotlight

**Kim Smith**  
Finance Assistant



*Kim has been a part of our staff for 11 years!*

Here's what Kim says about her job:  
"I like the people here, which is part of why I like my job so much. It's nice to have a good team."

I think we go above and beyond what other places do. Even though we're getting larger, we run like a close-knit company. If someone doesn't know something, there is someone else who does. We work very closely together."

When Kim is not at work handling the bookkeeping, accounts payable and receivable, and taking calls from customers, she enjoys doing crafts and other projects in her spare time.

## What Our Clients are Saying

*"We have been using Hudson LTC Pharmacy for approximately 7 years. To say that we are "satisfied" with them is an understatement! The Customer Service is above and beyond, from the CEO to the frontline staff, they are all knowledgeable and attentive to our specific needs as an agency, and never has an issue gone unresolved. Thank you Hudson LTC Pharmacy for all that you do for us!"*

- Jessica Colon, Life's Worc

## Expect More & Worry Less with Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy.

Count on Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy for the highest level of quality, accuracy, and efficiency in the management and coordination of pharmacy services.



**Hudson Regional**  
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY