

In the Know With



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

April 2021 • Issue #005

In This Issue

CRUSH the CURVE

Get the
**COVID-19
VACCINE**

PLUS

- *Good News! Covid-19 Cases are Majorly Declining in Long-Term Care Facilities as Residents Receive the Vaccine*
- *Safe and Socially Distanced Activities for Your LTC Facility*

As the COVID-19 Vaccine becomes more available, the Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy team is looking forward to working with long-term care agencies to ensure everyone gets vaccinated so we can beat the virus.



DELIVERING REAL SOLUTIONS

Expect More, Worry Less with Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy

Our vision at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is to be the premier provider of pharmaceutical care for patients by providing the highest quality of services, invested partnerships, and stewardship of our customers, employees, and community.

You can always count on the leaders and team at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy to foster an atmosphere that:

- Values honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness
- Strives for excellence in all that we do
- Acknowledges the importance of every individual's pharmacy experience.
- Encourages innovation and creativity
- Rewards loyalty, teamwork and perseverance

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



A Special Shout Out:



In other exciting news, we are happy to announce that Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy's sister agency is opening soon in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area. If you know of any facilities located near Capital District looking for long-term care pharmacy services, Capital Regional Pharmacy Services will soon be serving the area. This pharmacy has the same ownership as Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, and we are honored that they are mirroring the model of our organization.

TRUSTED
PARTNER

A Letter From Our CEO

As the sense of anticipation grows to put Covid -19 behind us, we still must be vigilant

Looking back at April 2020 and comparing things to where we are now, it's encouraging to see just how far we have come in one year since the Covid-19 pandemic. Although it's not completely behind us, hope is on the horizon with the rollout of the vaccine and millions already vaccinated. It's important to remember that when the vaccine came out, it wasn't necessarily meant to prevent Covid-19, but to prevent severe disease and hospitalization from the virus. And, it's been a phenomenal success, but we still need to be vigilant.

In Minnesota, there were 14 cases of people vaccinated who still tested positive for Covid-19. Now while they were a-symptomatic or low symptoms, the takeaway from this is that you can still get the virus, but you won't have the devastating consequences. With that being said, masking and social distancing will probably still be with us until we achieve herd immunity with the virus. Herd immunity is known to be achieved through vaccination but it can also occur when people become

immune to a disease which makes the spread less likely. Our team is committed to keeping your facility, its staff, and resident apprised of updates on the vaccine and we are here if you have any questions.

Please know that our staff and the entire team here at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy are committed to serving your facility and residents with excellence. We want to thank all of our facility partners for their continued patronage, and we hope to join forces and partner up with more facilities that are serving the developmentally disabled. When you think of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, we want you to think of our team as an extension to your facility. We are always here to meet the needs of our partners.

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

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



TEAMWORK

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." — Andrew Carnegie, American industrialist

LONG TERM CARE



Industry News

CDC Releases New Covid Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated People

Good News! Covid Cases are Majorly Declining in Long-Term Care Facilities as Residents Receive the Vaccine

As the Covid-19 vaccine continues to be distributed and administered, long-term care facilities specifically are seeing a major decline in the number of new cases among residents and staff. Since mid-December, the number of Covid cases among residents in nursing homes has decreased by 89 percent, according to data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). New resident cases are also at their lowest levels since the CMS began tracking data in May 2020.

In a recent interview on CNN, Mark Parkinson, who is the President and CEO of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) which represents 14,000 long-term care facilities across the country, attributed the positive data and news to the success of the vaccine. Parkinson mentioned in this interview that just a couple of weeks ago,

there was a peak of 30,000 new Covid cases reported each week. Since the vaccine rollout, those numbers have dropped to 3,000 new cases a week, and for some providers, they are now seeing zero new cases. "It's absolutely astonishing; we all thought the vaccine would reduce cases, but I don't think any of us thought we would have zero cases," Parkinson said on CNN.

According to a press release from AHCA/NCAL, the Association has taken the lead in a nationwide goal to vaccinate 75 percent of the approximately 1.5 million nursing home staff by June 30, 2021. Long-term care facilities have made positive strides since the start of the pandemic. It's paramount that the most vulnerable population and frontline caregivers and providers continue to receive the vaccine so Covid cases decrease, and the virus is defeated for good.

Safe and Socially Distanced Activities for Your LTC Facility

As the number of Covid cases continues to decrease from the vaccine, using safe and socially distanced practices is still paramount until more of the population receives the shot. Long-term care facility staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of their residents throughout the pandemic. On top of residents' health and safety, LTC staff has also implemented extremely creative ways to keep spirits up and minds engaged during this time. We wanted to offer a couple of ideas for fun, socially distanced activities to try with your residents.

1. **In-room scavenger hunt** - Put those magazines to use! Create a list of items to search for and pass out magazines for residents to find, cut out, and make a collage of their findings. A prize can be given to the person who finds the most items.
2. **Bingo, with a twist** - Instead of gathering in a large room, have residents play doorway bingo. This would require setting up their chair and a side table by the doorway but it offers some across-the-hall interaction. A staff member can be in a central location to call out the letters and numbers.
3. **Plan a sundae social** - An ice cream party will excite people no matter their age. Residents can gather in their doorway while staff members come down the hall with a cart to help people prepare their favorite sundae. The sweet treat and socialization will definitely bring smiles to all.

New recommendations are released from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stating that fully vaccinated people can safely visit with other vaccinated people and small groups of unvaccinated people in some circumstances. "Fully vaccinated" according to the CDC means people who are two weeks past their second dose of the Moderna and Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines or two weeks past the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

While the new guidance does not directly address what this means for long-term care or elder care facilities, the new CDC guidelines do state that grandparents who are fully vaccinated can visit indoor with their unvaccinated children or grandchildren without wearing masks or physical distancing, if none of the family members are at risk for severe Covid-19.

While the numbers are growing daily, nearly 38.3 million Americans are fully vaccinated, which represents 11.6% of the population, according to Our World in Data.

The new guidelines from the CDC state that fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physically distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe Covid-19 disease indoors without wearing a mask or physical distancing.
- Skip quarantine and testing if they have been exposed to someone who has Covid-19 but is asymptomatic.

People who are vaccinated should still take precautions such as:

- Wear a mask and practice physical distancing in public, when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at an increased risk for severe Covid-19, and around people from multiple households.
- Get tested if experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.
- Avoid medium-and large-sized in-person gatherings.

Federal data shows that about 4.6 million first doses and 2.5 million second doses have been given thus far to residents and staff in long-term care facilities. Approximately 5 million residents are living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and 1.5 million people working in nursing homes, according to AHCA/NCAL.



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 are committed to always finding new and innovative ways to serve our customers. One pressure point for people living in group homes is the times that deliveries are made. All of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy's deliveries are made by 9 pm. This gives the LTC staff the ability to give the medication to residents before bed without waking people at night.



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

Automation is great, but it can fail. The human component of the prescription dispensing process at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy can pick out inconsistencies and double verify the prescription and usage. From beginning to end when a prescription comes in, our team is verifying that all of the information is correct, that there are no drug interactions, and that all labeling is correct. Our pharmacists and packaging supervisors can fill anywhere up to 2,000 prescriptions per day. No matter the volume, we are committed to excellence and quality assurance.

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

► **845-341-2700**

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.

Staff Spotlight

Shellyann Carlton

Packing & PrePacking Supervisor



"I enjoy helping others achieve how great they can be in their job. We always find ways to make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible. It's with teamwork and effort that we put in to ensure that everything leaves on time, is correct, and is in place like it should be."

"Hudson is very goal-oriented to ensure everything is perfect. We focus on what needs to get done for that day with the number of prescriptions that come in."

"We don't just settle; we always look for ways to improve and make sure there are no inconsistencies. The clientele we serve is always pleased with the way that we approach the work. Clients will call and thank us all the time. Since Covid times, they don't stop in as often but they send gift baskets to show how thankful they are for us."

Fun Fact:

When Shellyann isn't ensuring all the prescriptions get filled, sorted, and sent out with excellence, she can be found cooking or baking. She loves to share her baked treats with her Hudson family.



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

280 Rte 211 E, Suite 112, Middletown, NY 10940
www.hrltcp.org • info@hrltcp.org • P: 845-341-2700 • Fax: 845 341-2715