


In the Know With



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

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In This Issue

THANK YOU  U
Front-line workers who
put your lives on the line



PLUS

- *Highlights from the 2021-2022 New York State Healthcare Budget*
- *Now is the time for facilities to stock up on flu vaccines!*

Nurses, you are the first responders and front-line workers who put your life on the line each and every day. We would like to recognize all your hard work, sacrifice, and unending commitment to caring for others.

Celebrate With Us!



Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy Achieved The Gold Seal of Approval® from The Joint Commission

Last month, the Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy team achieved The Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission Accreditation. Part of the accreditation included virtual nebulizer training. This recognition shows that HRLTCP complies with the highest national standards for safety, quality of care and is committed to continually improving patient care.

HRLTCP's CEO, Angelo Angerame, completed the nebulizer instruction as part of his ongoing commitment in providing training and education for the entire Hudson staff and every facility partner. This accreditation allows the Hudson team to train facility partners and staff on how to use nebulizers to treat patients.

A big shoutout to Sarah Biaso, our Pharmacy Services Manager, for leading the charge on this process.

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

845-341-2700

What is The Gold Seal of Approval®?

Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy voluntarily underwent a thorough evaluation by The Joint Commission. The goal of the evaluation is to see if our facility meets the Joint Commission's rigorous performance standards in delivering quality, safe care. By meeting these standards, our facility received The Gold Seal of Approval® – an internationally recognized symbol of quality.

The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 22,000 health care programs worldwide and focuses on continually improving health care by setting the highest standards for health care quality throughout the world. In setting the standards, The Joint Commission consults doctors, nurses, and quality and safety experts to review the current standards and make recommendations for improvements.



NURSES WEEK

MAY 6-12



A Letter From Our CEO

May is Nurse Appreciation Month

As we move forward and place Covid-19 and the pandemic in the rearview mirror, we must pause for a moment to honor the frontline workers, first responders, and every single nurse for putting their lives on the line each and every day. New York was impacted tragically by the virus. We know that the pandemic, specifically here in our home state, could be described as a medical war zone during the early months of the outbreak. As a sense of normalcy is set out in front of us, we can never forget the unwavering dedication we saw from our frontline workers and nurses.

So, as we turn to May, which is known as Nurse Appreciation Month, let's really take a moment to honor the nurses we lost during the pandemic, the nurses who sacrificed seeing their family and loved ones to care for those who were sick, and to all the nurses who continue to live out their actions guided by compassion. On behalf of our entire team at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, we want to recognize and honor the impact of America's four million registered nurses, especially after this past year.

Each week in May, there is a different theme to celebrate nurses. We encourage your facility to take part in this month of celebration and recognition.

Week 1 is all about self-care with a focus on emotional and physical well-being.

Week 2 is about recognition and awareness of the critical work nurse anesthetists do every single day.

Week 3 is about professional development. Everyone can take part, whether you're a nurse looking to excel and lead in your own career or inspire and help others with their professional nursing journey.

Week 4 is about community engagement and helping to promote just how valuable nurses' contributions are to each and every community.

If your facility is looking for more ways to celebrate nurses month, head over to the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) website. Also, be sure to use the hashtag #NationalNursesMonth on social media.



***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

HIGHLIGHTING HEALTHCARE HEROS



Industry News

With May being National Nurse Month, we wanted to highlight two of our own RN Consultants. Dawn and Jennifer work with the facilities and nurses who care for the intellectual and developmentally disabled.

Their primary focus each day is to ensure that the pharmacy reviews the requirements by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) for the agencies that Hudson works with. Dawn and Jennifer review each individual's files and health record within the agencies through the pharmacy portal and make recommendations to the primary nurse and their physicians on what needs to be monitored to safely administer the medication that they're on. Most recently with the rollout of the Covid vaccine, they have been administering the Moderna vaccine. They have vaccinated close to 2,000 people so far.

We sat down and asked Dawn and Jennifer some questions about their job as RN Consultants and how the pandemic has changed the way in which they work. Here's what they had to say.

What do you love most about your job?

Dawn: I've worked residential, and I love the fact that I'm still involved with the individuals that we support. Now I am able to support the nurses too because I understand what it's like working their job and how we can help them. As a residential nurse, I know how much we worked with and relied on the pharmacy greatly, so it's nice to be a part of their team and assist them.

Jennifer: One of the things I love is being connected with the individuals, maintaining the advocacy, connection with them, and being able to assure that you are there for the individual's well-being and ensuring the continuity of care is there. Knowing that I made that individual smile even if it was for a minute, that they were happy and enjoying life in that moment, means everything.

How has the pandemic changed your day-to-day role?

Dawn: We immediately had to transition into doing things remotely because every agency is different and for some, prior to the pandemic, we were going into residences, getting the medical binders, and working with the staff in person. But once the pandemic hit, we had to transition and acclimate with our facilities to send patients' records electronically. It is challenging to maintain records and assist the staff when you cannot go into facilities physically but as the year has gone on, and we've all learned Zoom, we are acclimated to virtual trainings. We are assisting the staff with getting into patient portals and ordering medications. A silver lining from all of this is we were given time to work with nurses almost individually during the pandemic.

What does celebrating National Nurse Month mean to you?

Jennifer: Every day these nurses wake up, go to work, and put themselves last and these individuals first. Every time nurses speak up for those who can't, they do the right thing; they're heroes. The developmentally disabled that we take care of are people that society has forgotten about. These are the people that nurses have dedicated their lives to taking care of so these individuals can reach their fullest potential. Nurses get up every day and think about how they're going to get the job done to ensure the individual is taken care of.



Jennifer

Hudson Regional Long-Term Care's
RN Consultants



Dawn

2021-22 New York State Healthcare Budget Highlights

Recently, the Senate Majority released the 2021-2022 State Budget. These items reflect a prioritization in making healthcare more equitable and to ensure there are necessary resources funded throughout the healthcare system for affordable and quality care. Below outlines the new budgeted items from the New York State Senate.

- Restores \$415 million in proposed Medicaid cuts for hospitals and healthcare providers.
- Restores \$113 million in proposed cuts to public health programs and adds \$81 million in public health funding.
- Requires nursing homes to spend at least 70% of their revenue on direct patient care and 40% on resident-facing staffing, with \$64 million for increased staffing.
- Reduces health care costs for low-income New Yorkers by eliminating Essential Plan premiums and out-of-pocket expenses, including dental and vision benefits.
- Pushes back the carveout of the Medicaid prescription drug benefit for two years to support 340B providers and community healthcare providers.
- Expands postpartum coverage for women on Medicaid from 60 days to one year.



The Covid Vaccine For Kids

The American Academy of Pediatrics is helping pediatricians prepare for the vaccines to become available for children and adolescents. The **Pfizer-BioNTech** Covid-19 vaccine is currently available for teens as young as 16.

Pfizer-BioNTech and **Moderna** are conducting trials of the Covid vaccine in children ages 6 months to 11 years, and at least one of the vaccines could be available this summer, but health officials estimated this age group could start receiving vaccines in late 2021 or early 2022.

Pfizer-BioNTech has recently announced adolescent trials that have shown efficacy of 100% with no significant safety concerns. We will know more data about side effects and any contraindications for children and adolescents during the FDA approval process.

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.

It's Time to Order Flu Vaccines for Your Facility!

The 2021-22 flu season will be here before we know it. In preparation to serve your facility, please contact our team at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy so we can plan the number of vaccines to order for your patients to ensure you're stocked up. Have questions? We can help.

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.

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

▶ **845-341-2700**

Staff Spotlight

Michelle Lake

Prior Authorization Pharmacist



Michelle has worked at HRLTCP for six and a half years. Prior to her current role as a Prior Authorization Pharmacist, she worked as a Verification Pharmacist. A normal day for Michelle looks like handling around 20 prior authorizations, communicating closely about patients' needs with facility nurses, and problem-solving. If there is a problem, Michelle is there to fix it.

"I like the people I work with, talking to everyone, and helping them solve problems. I really appreciate the relationships that I've built with the nurses, and that they feel comfortable that I'm here and that I can help them. The fact that they feel secure and confident that I'm able to get the problem rectified, that's a big deal. And then you know you're doing something right."

At Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, we do care about our patients. I will call our nurses to check in on the patients and find out if prescriptions are needed urgently. We will always make extra deliveries to make sure patients get their medication if they need it."

Fun Fact:

She enjoys working out, taking aerobics classes, and reading. As a mom of two, she loves to go hiking and explore the outdoors with her family.



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