

In the Know With



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

August 2021 • Issue #009

In This Issue

How Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy Made Transitioning Pharmacies So Easy!

PLUS

Two \$1,000 Scholarships Available for BSN or MSN Students

A New Anti-Seizure Medication is Now Available at Our Pharmacy

Flu Vaccines Available as Soon as This Month

WE MAKE
IT EASY!

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IT EASY!

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IT EASY!

Providing Pharmaceutical Stewardship with Caring, Compassion, and Commitment

Everyday Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is called about challenges. Our staff knows that if there is any way we can help meet our facility partners' challenges, we're there.

We think creatively and out-of-the-box to provide your staff with solutions.

Recently, our team was notified by one of our agencies that a family member regularly takes their loved one (who lives in an LTC facility) home. The agency communicated with our staff the **difficulty in packaging this patient's multiple medications for the time they are not in the group home.** We told them this wouldn't be a problem to find a solution to commingle the medications.

Now, this patient receives their medications for when they are in the group home but we also **package some separately in a pill reminder container so this patient can leave the group home** with their family and have their medications. **It's a simple solution to what was perceived as a very complex problem.**

That is the **pharmaceutical stewardship** you will see at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy! You will always be met with **caring, compassion, and commitment** from our team to yours.

That is the difference at Hudson Regional Long-Term Care Pharmacy!

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

845-341-2714



A Letter From Our CEO

Keep Cool & Enjoy the Summer

It's always astonishing to see how fast summer flies by come August. As we come to an end of the dog days of summer, I am **grateful to see all the progress** back to normalcy compared to this time last summer. For example, our school doors are opening back up and we hope to see this open the labor force back up. We know parents were stuck in between a rock and a hard place with one parent needing to stay home with the kids and facilitate virtual school learning during the pandemic. My hope is that with the vaccine available and schools reopening, our workforce increases and there is ample staff available especially to take care of residents in long-term care facilities. We know our agency partners are working overtime to provide their residents with the best care with staff shortages, and we want you to know that we are here to support you.

Please know that Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is here to **help you resolve any issues that might arise.** You will hear this echoed throughout our staff but while we may not physically be in your facility, we are members of your care team.

I am happy to report that although Medicaid stopped paying for prescriptions written by Nurse Practitioners in the state of New York recently, none of our patients missed any medications. While things were chaotic, **we didn't skip a beat and none of our facility partners' residents missed their medications.**

In this month's issue of In The Know, our theme is focused on National Immunization Awareness Month. We share some key messages that your team can use when talking to residents about vaccines. Also, flu vaccines will be available starting later this month. In other vaccine news, **I am excited to hear that Moderna will pioneer other messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and therapeutics based on the company's experience with its Covid-19 vaccine.** The expansion of these other mRNA vaccines will be for the seasonal flu, HIV, and the Nipah virus. Another vaccine program Moderna is working on is for the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for older adults.

Don't forget, our team is always here to serve you. Please reach out with any questions or if we can help in any way.

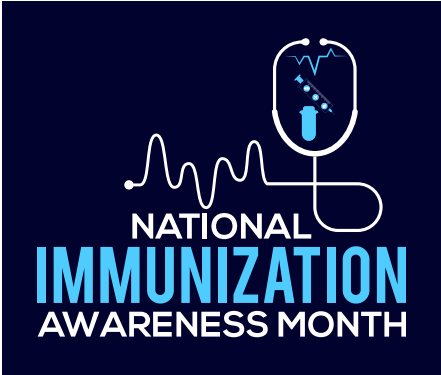


Yours in Health,
Angelo Angerame

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



August is
National Immunization
Awareness Month



National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight **the importance of vaccination for people of all ages**. Communicating with your long-term facility patients and staff about NIAM and the importance of being vaccinated can protect them from serious illness and disease. Below are essential messages from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to use when discussing vaccination with your LTC patients.

Here are some key points to help your staff ensure that facility residents are up-to-date on their vaccines.

- Talk to your adult patients about missed vaccines and assess vaccination status at every visit.
- It is especially important for patients with health conditions to be up to date on their vaccinations since they are at increased risk for complications from certain vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Be a champion for vaccination in your facility by ensuring all staff share a consistent message with adult patients about the importance of vaccines for their health.

Vaccines can prevent life-threatening diseases and most adults aren't aware they need them.

As the healthcare provider to your patients in residential homes, your recommendations are appreciated, valued and trusted. Using this **SHARE** approach can help educate patients to make informed decisions about vaccination.

- SHARE** the tailored reasons why the recommended vaccine is right for the patient given their age, health status, lifestyle, or other risk factors.
- HIGHLIGHT** positive experiences with vaccines (personal or in your healthcare experience), as appropriate, to reinforce the benefits and strengthen confidence.
- ADDRESS** patient questions and any concerns about the vaccine, including side effects, safety, and effectiveness in plain and understandable language.
- REMIND** patients that vaccines protect them and their loved ones from many common and serious diseases.
- EXPLAIN** the potential costs of getting the disease, including serious health effects, time lost, and financial costs.

Here's why vaccination is so vital:

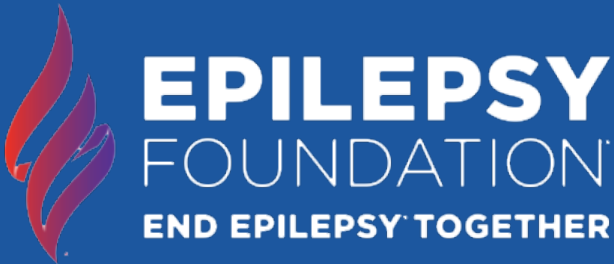
- Every year, thousands of adults in the US become seriously ill and are hospitalized because of diseases vaccines can help prevent. Many adults even die from these diseases.
- Adult vaccination rates are low in the US.
- Adults with chronic conditions like diabetes or heart disease are at greater risk for severe complications from certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Some vaccine-preventable diseases, like flu, can make glucose control more difficult for diabetics or increase the risk of another heart attack for those with heart disease.

Flu Vaccines Available as Soon as This Month



Flu vaccines will become available at the end of August and beginning of September. **You should get a flu vaccine by the end of October.** However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue throughout flu season, even in January or later. Here are some **important factors about the flu vaccine** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- The flu vaccine prevents illnesses, medical visits, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Flu vaccination also is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions. For example, flu vaccination has been associated with lower rates of some cardiac events among people with heart disease.
- Flu viruses are constantly changing, so flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the viruses that research suggests will be common during the upcoming flu season.
- Your protection from a flu vaccine declines over time. Yearly vaccination is needed for the best protection.



New Anti-Seizure Medication Available at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy

Rufinamide, the generic, non-brand name for **Banzel**, is now available at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy. This seizure medication is also called an anti-epileptic or anticonvulsant. Rufinamide, the generic version of Banzel, has been approved by the FDA. Banzel is used together with other medication to treat seizures caused by **Lennox-Gastaut syndrome**.

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

845-341-2714

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS!

Are you currently enrolled in a BSN or MSN nursing program? If so, we are currently accepting online applications for the Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy scholarship!

Apply Online by Aug. 15, 2021





Raving FAN

"We are very happy we made that decision to switch pharmacies. It has helped everyone's workload here from the nurses to direct care staff to RCs to the individuals because in those 1,500 total patients served where there are multiple levels of ability (total care to independent care). Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy has been able to support everybody's individual needs."

Faydra Geraghty
Director of Nursing at
Ulster Greene ARC



Ulster Green Arc Switches to Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy

The Challenge:

Faydra has worked in the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) field for more than 21 years. For the past 11.5 years, she has worked as the Director of Nursing where **she oversees four counties, including 29 RNS and 8 LPNs, and 1,500 developmentally disabled residents throughout the region's 59 residential programs.**

Creative Solutions:

We really tried to make our previous pharmacy work but our transition with Angelo and Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy was seamless and so helpful. **Over my career, I've had three experiences with transitions of pharmacies** but this transition was smooth as silk. All of the staff has been supportive and helpful; they're in it for the right reasons.

We gave them the information, they uploaded the data, and we didn't have to do anything. Their staff coordinated with each house, and they tweaked things as it was needed. They did such a wonderful job, we didn't have any issues with medications being missed, and they didn't hold things up. They go above and beyond to ensure the individuals have what they need.

Our total transition time from our previous pharmacy to Hudson took about a month and a half and this was in the month of December around the holidays. The other pharmacy was not gallant in any way, and they were not gracious in helping. Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy stepped up and helped us to make sure no one went without medications or treatments. They have carried us along to this day.

The communication with Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy from the pharmacists, to the staff, everyone seemed to be on the same page, whether it's from Angelo to the receptionist, everyone knows what the system is and gives me the same answer. The Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy staff is a well-oiled machine in terms of what their processes are; they are clear, concise and they follow it. That enabled us to have a seamless transition.



Above & Beyond:

What makes Hudson successful is because their mission and priority is the individuals. It's not about the amount of money being paid back from the insurance companies.

They are supporting people who have a genuine need for these medications and it would be to their detriment if they don't get them. They work with us and we work with them. It's a symbiotic relationship to get the individuals served.

Another way Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy goes above and beyond is helping individuals be as independent as possible with their abilities for self medication and administration. For example, prior to switching to Hudson Regional LTC, we told Angelo and his team that we have a resident that is legally blind. We work with this patient to help them be independent with taking their medications because they want to be. Before we even signed a contract with Hudson, Angelo went out and purchased a machine to make blister packs and put together options for tactical touchpoints (furry, bumps, brail) to help this one patient independently take their medication.

This team's openness and creativity that is out-of-the-box thinking is one of the many things that Hudson has done for many of the individuals we serve.

The Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy staff is open-minded to helping in any way. I oversee multiple programs, multiple nurses, and individuals, and I can say the pharmacy is not one of my top two worries anymore like it used to be (and it was getting worse and worse).

Thank you Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy for making my life easier. They are constantly evolving and being creative and their communication is always open. Being heard is so important, and I feel heard with Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy.

**Hudson Regional
LTC Pharmacy
Made Switching
SO EASY!**



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

845-341-2714

What **You Need** is Less Time with Pharmacy Care and **More Time** to Provide **Direct Patient Care**. WE CAN HELP! **Switching is as easy as...**



1 Have a Discovery Call with Us & Your Director of Nursing

Call us at: **845-341-2714**

2 Allow Us to Schedule an On-Boarding Call with Our Transition Team

3 Sit Back & Relax :)



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

Rx Date _____
Patient **Dir of Nursing &**
Address **Exec. Director**

Prescription: **Hudson Regional
Long Term Pharmacy**

- **Service That Means A Smile**
- **All Deliveries Before Resident Bedtimes**
- **We Take Care Of You, So You Can Take Care of Patients**

Because... It's the Right Thing to Do

Refil 0 1 2 3 4 5 Permission _____



Hudson Regional
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

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