

# In the Know With



Hudson Regional  
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

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**In This Issue**  
**Because It's**  
**The Right**  
**Thing To Do**



**PLUS**

- *We Will Always Rise to the Occasion to Fight For Your Rights*
- *What You Need to Know About Messenger RNA Vaccines*



## Taking a Stand to Fight For Your Rights.... Because It's the Right Thing to

Protecting our patients' rights and serving our agency partners is our entire livelihood and why we exist at Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy. Recently, we were put in a very bad situation by an insurance company, but **we never once wavered from our morals and values.** Here's what happened....

In the State of New York, it's against regulations for a pharmacist to give copies of prescriptions to anyone who isn't the patient or the doctor. This is a good law that we support and uphold. If we were to give copies of a patient's prescription, we would be guilty of professional misconduct and could lose our license.

**Insurance companies ask for prescription copies all the time and we tell them "no".** Last month, Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy's CEO, Angelo Angerame, got a letter from an insurance company stating that they're going to take \$2,000 away from the pharmacy due to our team not sending them a copy of the patient's prescription.

**They are demanding us to break the law!**

And we won't do it. **We fight for our patients' rights because it's the right thing to do!**

**We will protect patients and abide by the law at the cost of profit.** Angelo has been in touch with the State Board of Pharmacy, state professional organizations, New York State Senators, and talking with every local government official to make sure change happens so the insurance companies stop abusing patients' rights.

Unfortunately, other pharmacies will send insurance companies these prescription copies since it's the path of least resistance but it's not the right thing to do. **Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy protects patient confidentiality, the rights of the patient and complies with the law.**

**You can count on us!**

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

**845-341-2714**

# VACCINES SAVE LIVES

## A Letter From **Our CEO** *Vaccines Save Lives*

As the Delta variant begins to surge and cases are happening all across our nation, I truly want to take a moment to express that our team is here for those we serve, especially for our agency partners who serve the intellectual and developmentally disabled. **We must do everything we can to help your residents, our patients, be protected from the virus.**

We know that vaccines save lives. If your residents have not yet received the Covid booster shot, or if you are awaiting the flu vaccine, let me urge you to get in touch with our team. As talks of a 'twin-demic' circulate—a bad flu season and resurgence of Covid—we **must be vigilant to protect those most vulnerable!**



In Orange County, Covid cases are growing. Here are some numbers to show what has happened over the summer months:  
June 238 positive cases | 3 deaths  
July 681 positive cases | 3 deaths  
August 3,025 positive cases | 21 deaths  
That is almost 5 times as many new cases and 7 times as many deaths in just 60 days. Unfortunately, we are not heading in the right direction. However, people who are vaccinated and are getting the Delta variant aren't getting as sick. It's good to see we are not having the correlating amount of deaths to cases because people have received the vaccination.

Don't forget, **our team is always here to serve you.** We care about your administration team, your staff of nurses, direct support professionals and your entire team who works tirelessly to serve the IDD community. Please reach out with any questions or if we can help in any way with getting your staff or residents vaccinated.



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

CEO, Hudson Regional  
Long Term Care Pharmacy

## New Bill Could Allow New York Pharmacies to Administer More Vaccines

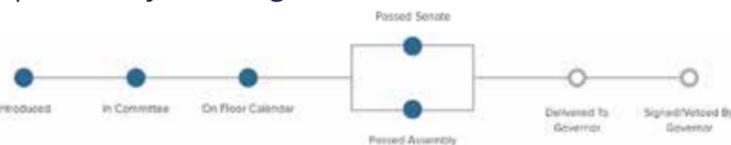
One thing Covid has proved is that **pharmacies are a great way to get vaccines to people.** With that being said, the state of New York is considering allowing pharmacies to administer more vaccines outside of the current six they can now give.

Senate Bill S4807A, which is awaiting delivery and a signature from the Governor, would authorize licensed pharmacists and certified nurse practitioners to provide immunizations that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to patients eighteen years or older. If passed, the following vaccines will be available at pharmacies in New York.

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella
- COVID-19

**The ability for pharmacists to give out vaccines can have a tremendous impact on the population.** The pandemic has tremendously skewed regular and routine vaccines schedules for children and adults since people have stayed at home and avoided regular doctor visits unless sick.

Currently, any licensed pharmacists in the State of New York, certified by the New York State Department of Education to vaccinate, can provide influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, herpes zoster, and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Td or Tdap) vaccines to persons 18 years of age and older. Certified pharmacists can also administer influenza vaccines to persons 2 years of age and older.



## What You Need to Know About Messenger RNA Vaccines

Messenger RNA vaccines—also called mRNA vaccines—are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases, and are one of the first Covid-19 vaccines authorized for use in the U.S.

**The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a new mRNA vaccine.** This vaccine requires people to receive two shots, 28 days apart. However, Moderna's vaccine is not interchangeable with other Covid vaccines so be sure to get the same product for your second shot.

### How do mRNA vaccines work?

mRNA is the blueprint for making proteins in our bodies, and **we can use it as an immune system alarm clock** because mRNA tells cells how to make specific protein molecules that could be harmful if they came from bacteria or viruses like the flu virus.

To trigger this response, many mRNA vaccines put only pieces (or oligonucleotides) of the deactivated germ into our bodies instead of putting whole germs in there; **these fragments** don't cause illness but do **wake up your immune system so you're ready when real invaders come around.** mRNAs help to create proteins that fight off infection by sending messages inside of cells directly. **That immune response**, which produces antibodies, is what **protects us from getting infected** if the real virus enters our bodies, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### New mRNA vaccines on the horizon

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.

## Employment Crisis

*Direct Support Professionals Industry is Facing a Shortage Crisis*

We talk about this often but services for the intellectual and developmentally disabled are severely underfunded. As an effect of this, across the nation, and in New York, **there is an industry shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).**

DSPs work directly with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to help them realize their full potential, and support them in becoming engaged in their community.

What makes a DSP different than a caregiver is that a **DSP works with people to help enable them to do everyday activities independently.** Thousands of New Yorkers with IDD rely on DSPs in their daily life. Some essential activities they help with include getting out of bed, getting dressed, going to the bathroom, finding a job, transporting to and from work....the list is endless.

While these jobs are essential, the turnover rate has reached an all-time high and the workforce has plateaued. **DSPs are friends, a lifeline, an encouraging voice, a listening ear, a cheerleader, and offer a seat at the table.**

Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy supports all IDD nurses, DSPs, and staff members who care for the individuals we love and serve. We know this is a thankless job, **but please know that we appreciate you and your service to IDD community!**



## Unemployment in New York

The U.S. unemployment rate currently sits at 5.4%, which indicates significant improvement from April 2020 when it hit an almost historic high of 14.8%.

**New York currently has an employment rate of 7.6%**, which is the 4th highest in the country, according to WalletHub's reports from July 2021. The following are more findings from New York's unemployment report.

- **96.37%** Change in Unemployment (July 2021 vs July 2019)
  - 708,641 unemployed people in July 2021 vs 360,869 in July 2019;
  - 5th worst recovery in the U.S.
- **96.89%** Change in Unemployment (July 2021 vs January 2020)
  - 708,641 unemployed people in July 2021 vs 359,918 in January 2020;
  - 5th worst recovery in the U.S.
- **-48.60%** Change in Unemployment (July 2021 vs July 2020)
  - 708,641 unemployed people in July 2021 vs 1,378,613 in July 2020;
  - 15th best recovery in the U.S.

The New York workforce is on its way to recovery and **we know our great state will come back stronger.** There are grants, tax credits, and technical assistance programs for businesses impact by the pandemic. Find these resources by visiting New York State Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative at [esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov).

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

**845-341-2714**

# Congratulations to Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy 2021 Scholarship Winners!

Thank you for serving the ID/DD Community



Please join us in congratulating these remarkable people pointed to make a difference in the ID/DD community. As winners of our annual Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy Scholarship competition, they have each been awarded with \$1,000 for their BSN or MSN Nursing Program and covering 1 year of membership dues in the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association.



## Scholarship Winner

“Wow! I am beyond surprised and HONORED! Thank you for the opportunity, I am very appreciative!”

Jessica Colon

## Jessica Colon

Jessica Colón, RN, Life’s WORC’s Nursing Administrator, has been working in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for over 18 years. She began her career as a Direct Support Professional. She attended Nursing school while being a part of the Management team of a Crisis & Respite program. After graduating Nursing school, she became the RN for the same programs she managed.

Jessica is most known for her infectious smile, bubbly personality, and “Good Morning, Sunshine!” Jessica is a strong advocate for the people we support, having the health and safety of people at the forefront, builds and maintains positive relationships with the people supported, staff, and colleagues. “Nursing isn’t just about the technical help we can provide; it’s about the compassion we show serving as a person’s advocate in any way that we can. Assisting in stabilizing a person, medically or psychiatrically, so that they can live a quality life is my greatest joy.” Jessica hopes to continue to learn and grow in the field of developmental and intellectual disabilities, so that she can be a change agent in her community. “This isn’t just a career for me, I’m a lifer!”

## Tammy Ellinger

Tammy Ellinger is an ambitious and enthusiastic Community Mental Health Nurse (CMHN), working with the Onondaga and Oswego County Family Care Program. She has enjoyed her 30-year career with the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). She is also a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) student at Binghamton University.

My goal is to complete the FNP program in May 2022, then pursue my Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner credentialing. My great aspiration is to continue my employment with NYS as a Family Nurse Practitioner within OPWDD to serve the Intellectual disabled/Developmentally disabled (ID/ DD) and psychiatric populations, while enriching their lives and becoming a stronger advocate for these individuals.



## Scholarship Winner

“I would like to thank the committee for giving me an opportunity to shine. I would also like to express my gratitude of being awarded the recipient for the ID/DD Scholarship. Words cannot express my sincere appreciation that as a result of my professional dedication that I embrace and love to do, I will be compensated with acknowledgement and this scholarship award. I am truly grateful.”

Tammy Ellinger

# Providing Value Beyond Medication!!



## A Mission That is Possible!

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.

## Your Partner in Healthcare, Always!

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 create strong working relationships with clients, staff, nursing, and administration from day one. Even though we aren’t physically in your long-term care facility, we are always your partner in healthcare.

## Cost-Effective Solution to Meet Your Patients’ Needs

Our certified pharmacists can fill a wide range of prescriptions from high-quality brand names to generic medications purchased directly from approved wholesalers and distributors.

If you need healthcare products for your patients, no problem! 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. Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is committed to your complete satisfaction and will provide cost-effective solutions.



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 :)

