

# In the Know with...

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## YOUR LOCAL NEW YORK LONG TERM CARE PHARMACY

 Hudson Regional  
LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY



PLUS

- *AMAPs An Overlooked and Under-Appreciated Role*
- *2023 AMAP Administering Meds Checklist*



## NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES

Life. Supported.



### Statement from the New York Disability Advocates on Governor Hochul's 2024 Executive Budget

Earlier this month, Governor Hochul outlined her administration's vision of the "New York Dream", a government that will uplift all New Yorkers. Unfortunately, with the release of the Executive Budget today, the "New York Dream" for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the individuals that provide life-supporting services to them is not fully realized.

Governor Hochul's inclusion of a 2.5 % Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) as part of the Executive Budget, simply does not provide the necessary resources to keep pace with the growing cost of providing services to people with developmental disabilities after a decade of cuts and lack of investment in these services.

OPWDD's own Strategic Plan, published in November, articulates Goal #1 as, "Improve the recruitment, retention and quality of the direct support workforce," by "investing in the workforce." The system faces "a 35.6% turnover rate in the voluntary DSP workforce, a vacancy rate of 17.2% for full-time positions, and a vacancy rate of 21.3% for part-time positions."

An adequate COLA increase is critical to address workforce turnover and increased operational costs. The Governor's proposal to fund a COLA at 6% less than the system needs to sustain the status quo means that OPWDD will have some difficult decisions to make about where cuts to service delivery will happen for the 130,000 New Yorkers with I/DD and their families that rely upon them.

With today's announcement, we once again face the stark reality that nonprofit provider agencies for the I/DD community are overlooked and underfunded especially, considering OPWDD increased starting wages for their own workforce by 13%, who provide the same supports and services.

Equity and support for all must make its way into the Governor's and the Division of Budget's Dream for New York. Without that equity and support from our elected officials the "New York Dream" becomes a nightmare for the people with disabilities and their families, who are unable to get the resources they need to live their best lives.

There are currently hundreds of people with I/DD waiting in hospitals, nursing homes, and psychiatric centers due to insufficient capacity in the OPWDD system. There are thousands more living at home with their aging caregivers who want to live independently with supports from OPWDD. This cannot be part of the "New York Dream" that Governor Hochul envisioned.

New York lawmakers have a duty to serve all their residents, especially those who rely on them the most. We must work together to ensure that the I/DD community receives the proper recognition and resources it needs to build a sustainable future for the thousands of New Yorkers who need it.

We are urging both houses of the New York Legislature to include an 8.5% Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA), as well as the establishment of a Direct Support Wage Enhancement (DSWE) to increase hourly pay for Direct Support workers in their respective one-house budgets. The fate of the I/DD community depends on it.



## A Letter From Our CEO

### *Your Local LTC Pharmacy Provider*

From the New York Capitol District down through the Hudson Valley into New York City and Long Island, we are proud to be your local long-term care pharmacy provider. Thank you for being our client. We also want to specifically thank all the AMAPs for the role they play in the health of our residents.

Many times individuals with disabilities are unable to speak up and speak out for themselves. It is part of our responsibility as family members, as caregivers, as organization leaders, as vendor service providers to advocate for adequate government taxpayer funds for our community.

Our field has come a long way when institutions and facilities serving our community were "snake pits"! The 1960's became a fundamental turning point in government recognizing the rights and needs of people with developmental disabilities and autism. It was accomplished through the militancy of their parents and family members. Their public outrage and protest urged government officials to bring about reforms and improvements.

organizations and group homes to rally for people with developmental disabilities and autism. Let's use our voices to help Members of the New York State Legislature understand the gap between what they are providing for the ID/DD community and how they can help on a community level.

Hudson Regional LTC always wants to provide our clients with the highest quality, accuracy, and efficiency in managing and coordinating pharmacy services. Are you an executive, an administrator, a house manager, or a nursing director frustrated for too long with the challenges caused by your long-term care pharmacy provider? 2023 is the year to make a switch! To discuss the challenges with your LTC Pharmacy providers and how to resolve them, we're here to help. Please reach out at (845) 341-2714.

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

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





## Thank you to All Approved Medication Administration Personnel (AMAP)

### *An Overlooked and Under-Appreciated Role in the Health of Your Residents*

Approved Medication Administration Personnel (AMAP) play a critical role in meeting the health needs of your residents with intellectual/developmental disabilities. First, we would love to start off by saying thank you to all the AMAPs. It can be a challenging and thankless job in the id/dd community.

The role of an AMAP in the state of New York requires certification and is highly regulated. Medication Administration is assisting a person in the ingestion, application, or inhalation of medications, including both prescription and non-prescription drugs, or using universal precautions for rectal or vaginal insertion of medication according to the printed directions by a physician or other authorized health care practitioner.

On the next page, you will find the NEW 2023 AMAP Administering Meds Checklist. Please feel free to print, duplicate and keep on hand for your staff to use and scan into their MARs.

Checklists are very powerful tools because by having a checklist you can complete repetitive tasks more quickly, efficiently, and with fewer mistakes. This gives you and your staff more productive time instead of putting out fires.

***Ensuring the right patient, gets the right medication, at the right time....every time.***



**Expect More. Worry Less.**

## AMAP Medication Administering Check List

### PREPARATION:

Wash hands, (use an alcohol base hand sanitizer if a sink is not available)

### ASSEMBLE EQUIPMENT:

- MAR, B/P Cuff, Stethoscope (if needed), Gloves, Medication Cups, Drinking Water, Cups for Water, Applesauce or Pudding (if needed), Spoons, Paper Towels, Tissues, Plastic Calibrated Medicine Cup for liquids.
- Wash hands again prior to giving medication.
- Work alone to prevent distractions or interruptions
- Review each MAR for date, individuals name, allergies, and medication orders.

### ADMINISTERING:

- Review the MAR and read the entire medication order before administering, make sure you understand it
- If there is something not clear in the order, **call the RN.**
- Note the hour and date boxes to ensure the medication is being administered at the correct time and that it had not been administered yet.

### The 6 Rights

**Time • Route • Amount • Medication • Person • Document & Sign**

### RULE OF THREE: *Triple check when administering medications.*

- **FIRST CHECK:** Remove the individuals' medication from the locked medication cabinet. With the individual's MAR in view, locate the medication that is labeled with the individual's name. Select the correct medication then **COMPARE AND MATCH** the MAR to the pharmacy label using **THE 6 RIGHTS** before pulling the medication from the cabinet. If these do not match do not give the medication, but call the RN.
- **SECOND CHECK:** Prepare the medication again by **COMPARING AND MATCHING** the MAR to the pharmacy label using **THE 6 RIGHTS**, before pouring the medication. Date and initial appropriate bubbles on the blister pack. Document controlled substances immediately on the Narcotic Count Sheet. \*\*\* **Check the expiration date as well. Never administer expired meds.**
- **THIRD CHECK:** Before returning the medication to the locked medication cabinet recheck by **COMPARING AND MATCHING** the MAR to the pharmacy label using **THE 6 RIGHTS** assuring they match exactly.
- **Locate and identify the individual.** If unfamiliar with the individual confirm identity by checking their photo ID and or asking another staff member. Explain the procedure, Check B/P, Pulse etc. as indicated, administer medication and water. Remain with the individual until medication is taken.

### RECORDING AND CLEAN UP:

- After administering the medication sign your initials in the correct box(es) on the Mar.
- Document medication refused, or prn medications administered as indicated on MAR.
- Notify Nursing when indicated.
- Discard used medication cup and leave area clean.

### Reminders:

Med Room keys are locked or retained by the AMAP staff at all times.

Medication can be administered an hour before and up to an hour after the designated time.

Narcotics are double locked, and counted by two people at the start and end of shift.

**Because, It's the Right Thing to DO!**




Greystone Programs, Inc.

# SAVE — THE — DATE

## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LEAP FOR AUTISM

### Saturday, May 6, 2023

Skydive the Ranch, Gardiner, NY  
(Rain/Wind Date Saturday, May 20, 2023)



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

## Philanthropy Events

Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is proud to be one of this year's event sponsors for Greystone Program's Leap for Autism. The event is to be held on May 6, 2023 at Skydive the Ranch, Gardiner, New York.

HRLTCP CEO, Angelo Angerame, took the leap and skydived for two years running and will be jumping again for a third time to raise money for Autism. Save the date for this 2023 philanthropy event of the year. This event helps to raise awareness and bridge the gap in funding. To learn more, visit us online at: <https://www.greystoneprograms.org/events/leap-for-autism-2023>

## Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright a new champion for New York's disabled population.



"In my new capacity I want to see results for some of the priorities such as: Focusing on providers, focusing on support staff...which has had a huge turnover since Covid. I want the care service people to get paid an increase they deserve...many agencies and organizations in this field are now suffering from a 20% vacancy rate. We need to adjust and invest additional dollars. I am committed to pushing for wage enhancement and increasing hourly pay. I will drive this point home among my legislative colleagues."

~Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright



## CBD, Fentanyl, and Other Medications

### A Warning About Drug Interactions and Sharing Medications

Hudson Regional Long Term Care Pharmacy is issuing an advisory message about drug interactions with common over-the-counter medications and sharing medications.

Many group residents are on medications that may have severe and life threatening consequences when mixed with regular everyday over-the-counter medications that normal healthy people take every day. For example, aspirin mixed with blood thinners is risky business and can cause life threatening consequences.

**WARNING: Please remind parents and friends of group home residents to check with residents' doctors and staff before administering ANY medications for common ailments such as headaches, even for over-the-counter medication such as Aspirin.**

Even more common is people talking about and sharing their CBD, Cannabis and Marijuana with group home residents. Why? CBD and Marijuana may help with seizures, along with aches and pain.

**WARNING: CBD, Cannabis, and Marijuana can also cause severe drug interactions with some common epilepsy medications and other medications.**

Medication can be extremely helpful for a mildly healthy person but can spell disaster in a person with compromised health.

Please consult your resident's doctor before exposing your loved one to any medications other than the drugs prescribed. We all want to see our loved ones healthy and unintentional helpfulness can spell disaster.



# Because, It's the Right Thing to DO!





# Hudson Regional

## LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY

### Here's What **People** **Are Saying** About Our Pharmacy!

"One of the most **caring, attentive, and reliable pharmacies** I've ever worked for. A **welcoming and professional** environment where you're treated as family from day one. Highly recommended."  
– Heather D.

"**Best customer service** ever!!"  
– Trish S.

"Never worry. **Always a solution.**"  
– Kevin L.

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

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Prescription: **Hudson Regional  
Long Term Care 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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