Accu-Chek® Meter Resource Reminders

- Accu-chek® meters for blood glucose testing are provided by the VA Pharmacy for newly diagnosed, first time testers who are receiving a meter for the first time. A lancet device is included with the meter.

- Older, navy blue Accu-Chek® meters do NOT need to be replaced if still working.

- For quality assurance, patient safety, and inventory management, a dedicated line for VA patients is available by calling 800-858-8072 and PRESS 1. This number is also located on the back of the glucometer. Have patients call the customer service line for all troubleshooting.

- Should a patient require meter or lancet device replacement, they are sent within 2-3 business days.

- For urgent replacements for high-risk patients, you may, 1. provide a replacement meter, 2. ensure the meter being replaced is not discarded, 3. request the replacement meter be sent to your department’s address, which will also come with a return envelope for the broken meter to be sent back to the manufacturer, and 5. put the replacement meter back into your department’s inventory.

- As a rule, patients should not be issued multiple meters.

FORMULARY UPDATES APPROVED BY PTN COMMITTEE

Hydrocortisone 0.5% in hydrocerin cream will no longer be compounded in the pharmacy. Patients with active prescriptions will be auto-converted to commercially manufactured hydrocortisone 0.5% cream. The names of all compounded medications have been standardized—the final % is now displayed in the drug name. All compounds require non-formulary approval.

ORAL PHENYLEPHRINE NOW AVAILABLE

Phenylephrine 10 mg tablets are now an orderable drug item for the treatment of nasal congestion, as an alternative to pseudoephedrine. Intranasal therapy options for the treatment of nasal congestion include: oxymetazoline (Afrin®) and phenylephrine (Neo-Synephrine®). However, keep in mind that the intranasal decongestants should only be used for a maximum of 3 days to prevent rebound congestion.

RVAMC’s Inaugural VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Pharmacy Program

Starting in July, the RVAMC will welcome its first VALOR pharmacy student. VALOR is a ten-week honors program that provides opportunities for outstanding pharmacy students between their second and third years of schooling to develop competency-based clinical practice skills at an approved VA healthcare facility.

Students recruited for the program have completed the second professional year in an accredited Doctor of Pharmacy program, and must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. VALOR students complete a minimum of 400 hours at the VA facility to which they are accepted. Focused areas for learning will include: outpatient pharmacy, ambulatory care, inpatient pharmacy, acute mental health, and outpatient mental health.
The Roseburg and Eugene pharmacy residents have been very busy over the past 2 months! At the end of April, they visited the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach, OR (pictured on the left), for the annual OSHP seminar where they presented posters on their quality improvement projects to pharmacy professionals from across the state.

At the end of May, the residents traveled down to the WSC at the Paradise Point Resort in San Diego, CA, to present their longitudinal projects (Lauren Farnsworth is pictured at right presenting patients with PTSD taking benzodiazepines & opioids). The WSC is the largest conference for pharmacy residents, fellows, and preceptors. This year there were over 550 projects presented over three days. The residents would like to give a special thanks to the clinical pharmacy specialists, Chief of Pharmacy, and everyone else who helped with their projects along the way!

Welcome to the New Pharmacy Residents

**Roseburg PGY-1**

Rebekah Friesz grew up in Independence, Missouri. She graduated with her Pharm.D. from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in May 2017. She enjoys cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals Major League Baseball team and eating nachos as often as possible. Rebekah also loves exploring the outdoors and taking adventures in new places.

**Roseburg PGY-1**

Andrew Lee grew up in Ellicott City, MD. He graduated from Towson University in 2012 with a B.S. in chemistry and biochemistry/molecular biology/bioinformatics, and graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy with a Pharm.D. in May 2017. Andrew enjoys hiking, cooking, and military history.

**Roseburg PGY-1**

Jason DeGooyer was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. He earned his Bachelors in biology from the University of Utah in 2013 and graduated from the University of Utah School of Pharmacy in 2017. He enjoys spending time with his family, road biking, and learning about history.

**Eugene PGY-2**

Eugenia Su, Pharm.D., will be continuing her VA experience at the Eugene VA Healthcare Center. She aspires to become a clinical pharmacist in ambulatory care. If she is not spending time with friends, she is probably indoors playing video games, playing the piano, or binge watching TV shows.