



KEEPING TABS

Absolute Pharmacy is the prescription for what ails you.

In each quarterly edition, you'll find the latest news about pharmacy, new medications, technology and more – all through the lens of what is pertinent to the long-term care (LTC) industry.

Absolute Pharmacy has been serving the LTC industry since 1994. We're a part of a dynamic circle of care that consists of rehabilitation, home health care services, hospice care and much more. We have a rich perspective, and we're thrilled to share what we've been learning from industry leaders, our employees and our customers – you!

We are confident you'll find the information useful. If you have a suggestion for a topic you'd like to learn about, let us know at maryjo.mcelyea@abshealth.com.

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PointClickCare



Returns processing and order check in will remain status quo. Currently, PointClickCare does not manage returns or the pharmacy medication check-in process.



IV orders, control orders, compound orders and orders over 140 characters will not transmit to Absolute Pharmacy and must be faxed.

Note: Absolute Pharmacy offers full integration with other software products as well.

Questions?

Please contact
Brandi Clouston at 330-498-3715
or email at bnclouston@abshealth.com
for pharmacy-specific questions.

Pre-Implementation Quick Tips

Non eMAR Enabled



The facility is
Wi-Fi enabled.



Dual authentication:
1. Holographic
barcodes
2. Magnetic card
reader



Barcode scanner
equipped



Diligent quality
assurance during
form changeover
and consistent
faxing of orders to
Absolute Pharmacy

eMAR Enabled



All prescription order
sources are correct:
1. Absolute Pharmacy
2. House stock
3. Other sources



All discharged residents
are fully discharged
and all orders are
discontinued.



Medical professionals
are to complete:
1. First and last name
2. Office fax and
phone numbers
3. Address
4. 5-digit zip code
5. NPI number



All patient information
is complete:
1. Date of birth
2. Social security
number
3. First and last name
4. Gender

Fulfilling Final Wishes

by Whitney Prather, Director of Communications, Absolute Skilled Home Health & Hospice

Many of you are familiar with Absolute Pharmacy's sister company, Absolute Hospice, but are you aware of their wish-fulfillment program called My Heart's Desire? The program exists to fulfill final wishes and desires for hospice patients.

For more than a year, we've granted final wishes and dreams come true for 23 patients and their families including day trips, special events and opportunities to meet special people like national celebrities.

Recently, Absolute Hospice honored 92-year-old Steve Renchkovsky with a day away from his nursing facility to enjoy family and remember times past at the MAPS Air Museum.

"I feel delighted and happy to be here," said Renchkovsky. MAPS was just as delighted to have a World War II veteran (Army Air Force) in its presence. The museum rolled out the red carpet for him and his family with a guided tour and allowed him to go inside the plane he flew in

combat over 71 years ago – the Martin B-26 Marauder. Following the tour, there was an intimate pinning ceremony where Renchkovsky was honored for his service to our nation. Family members even flew in from Florida to commemorate the special day.

"We remember veterans on Veteran's day," said Nikki Becher, volunteer and My Hearts Desire coordinator at Absolute Hospice. "But these pinning ceremonies allow us to appreciate and honor their sacrifice all year round. And, it's a wonderful way to say 'thank you' for serving our country while they're still with us."

Renchkovsky concluded the day at Menches Brothers Restaurant & Pub with his favorite meal of pancakes and sausage.

For more information about Absolute Hospice or the My Heart's Desire wish-fulfillment program, contact us at 330-498-8075.



World War II veteran pilot Steve Renchkovsky poses at MAPS Air Museum with a plane similar to the one he flew thanks to the My Heart's Desire wish-fulfillment program.

Invanz-Induced Seizures, Hallucinations and Delirium in Elderly Patients

by Becky Sommers, R.Ph, V.P. Clinical Services

Neurotoxicity is a well-known side effect of the carbapenem class of antibiotics, with seizures being the most frequently reported. While Primaxin (imipenem and cilastin) has classically been associated with the highest incident of neurotoxicity, a growing number of reports have been published citing seizures, hallucinations and delirium because of Invanz (ertapenem). Here we summarize published reports so that clinicians can be more cognizant of this potential issue.

Ertapenem fat solubility, accumulation in renal impairment, and increased levels of free drugs in patients with hypalbuminemia may all contribute to increased central nervous system (CNS) exposure.

The capacity to induce seizures of ertapenem in relation to other carbapenems has been reviewed by Miller et al. Of the 12 cases of ertapenem associated seizures in their review, five were reported to have renal insufficiency and an additional two patients were older than 75 years of age. Nine of the 12 patients had a history of CNS disorder, which also may have predisposed them to seizures.

To support these data, 12 reported cases of non-seizure-related neurotoxicity cases attributed to ertapenem were reviewed. The onset of neurotoxicity in these patients ranged from 2 to 14 days after starting ertapenem, and symptoms persisted for as long as 14 days after drug discontinuation in cases of moderate to severe renal dysfunction.

The data on ertapenem-induced seizures and reports of neurotoxicity highlight some important issues for consideration in the use of ertapenem. First is that the majority of the toxicity has been reported in older patients or in those with renal impairment. Considering the similarities in patients who have developed neurotoxicity on ertapenem, careful consideration of patient risk factors including age, renal function and comorbidities is important when selecting this antibiotic and making dosing decisions.

The second issue for consideration is that ertapenem is often administered on an outpatient basis where close monitoring can be problematic. With the growing number of reports of ertapenem toxicity, providers must weigh the risk-versus-benefit of discharging a patient to a nursing home or private home on this agent.



Third is the importance of early recognition of ertapenem-induced toxicity. Many patients in cases reported had extensive and invasive workups for delirium, including lumbar puncture, repeated radiologic imaging and administration of antipsychotic medications. Some cases also noted significant deterioration of the patient due to the continuation of ertapenem while the workup was ongoing.

As the prevalence of multi-drug resistant pathogens rises, the use of the carbapenem's will likely continue to increase. Therefore, judicious use of ertapenem will continue to be of great importance. Clinicians are encouraged to consider ertapenem-induced toxicity as a diagnosis in a patient who presents with seizures, hallucination and delirium while receiving this drug, particularly older patients and those with renal impairment.

Sources: Ertapenem-Induced Hallucinations and Delirium in an Elderly Patient, John J. Veillette, Puja Epps, Consultant Pharmacist, April 2016, Vol. 31, NO. 4, pgs 207-213.

Epileptogenic Potential of Carbapenem Agents: Mechanism of Action, Seizure rates and Clinical Considerations. Miller et al. Pharmacotherapy: Vol. 31, Issue 4, April 2011, pgs 408-423.



Components of a Drug Order

by Theresa Cunningham, Customer Service Manager

The components of a drug order are:

- 1 Patient name and date of birth
- 2 Date and time the order is written
- 3 Drug name (generic/brand)
- 4 Drug dosage
- 5 Route of administration
- 6 Frequency and duration of administration, such as seven days, times three doses, etc.
- 7 Any special instructions for withholding or adjusting dosage based on effectiveness or laboratory results
- 8 Physician's or provider's signature if written order, or name if telephone or verbal order.
- 9 Signature(s) of licensed practitioner taking written order, telephone order or verbal order

When a component is missing from the drug order, the drug order is incomplete and clarification must be obtained.

Absolute Insights

Managing Non-Returnable Items

by Theresa Cunningham, Customer Service Manager

In order to help you better manage costs, Absolute Pharmacy will now contact facilities to inform staff of any new order for medication that is a non-returnable product over \$50. This will include any payor source to inform them that the item is non-returnable and no credit can be issued. If you have any questions, please contact your Account Manager or Customer Service.

Put a Face to a Name: Brandi Clouston



Q: How long have you worked for Absolute Pharmacy?

A: I am working toward my 15th year.

Q: What do you do for Absolute Pharmacy?

A: I dabble in a little bit of everything. I am transitioning from the Support Services Manager role to becoming a Pharmacy Systems Administrator. I am excited for the opportunity to learn something new!

Q: What do you absolutely love about working for Absolute Pharmacy?

A: My coworkers – a.k.a. my peeps! Half of my family works with me and at one time, even my mother. It is a lot better coming to work knowing that the people you love are there, too.

Q: What do you enjoy doing the most?

A: My hobby is cooking and baking. My time spent making something from a few ingredients is my escape. It lets me forget my stress or my disappointments and only focus on creating. Cooking/baking also teaches you how to problem solve, how to always have a plan B (like ordering pizza), how to deal with a failure and how to feel pride. And really, I just like eating!

Q: What's your favorite song?

A: Mumford and Sons – The Cave. It is one of those songs that you can identify with and it can help with a bad day. And ... it has a banjo.

Q: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: When I was young I wanted to be a Psychologist. I have a bachelors in psychology but never followed it past a four-year degree. I think I have come close to that dream some days at the pharmacy ... and that is enough for me ... for now.

Q: What is your favorite animal and why?

A: My favorite animal is a pug. I have a pug named Pickles and he is my baby. He always is snoring, snorting or making a funny face. Pugs are stubborn, noisy and shed way too much but they make up for it in personality and panache.

Q: If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be?

A: Honestly, I would love to go back to Belgium. I am too pasty to be a beach person and I am not one for large crowds. Belgium is relaxed, has cool weather and beautiful scenery ... and the food! Chocolate and waffles – enough said.

Absolute Insights

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEADINGAGE OHIO

September 8
Columbus, OH

EFOCHA ASSISTED LIVING AND IID SUMMIT

September 21
Columbus, OH

EFOCHA NURSING CONFERENCE

September 27-28
Columbus, OH

OHCA CEUs AT ABSOLUTE

October 4
Speakers from Absolute Pharmacy and Absolute Rehab
North Canton, OH

SCAAN CEU SEMINAR

October 26
Speakers from Absolute Pharmacy
Canton, OH

OHIO NIGHT OUT, LEADINGAGE NATIONAL

October 30
Indianapolis, IN

OHCA FALL CONFERENCE

November 8-9
Columbus, OH

