

# Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

## Community Pharmacies

### Improving Access to Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder

**⚠ Pain Point:** Many patients lack access to treatment for opioid use disorder. In fact, about 40% of U.S. counties have no certified buprenorphine prescribers. Plus COVID-19 has amplified problems, causing disruptions in care. Previously, prescribers had to complete 8 to 24 training hours to get an “X” DEA number to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder. Now physicians, plus NPs and PAs in most states, can get an X number and treat up to 30 patients at a time by simply applying online.

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Prescriber’s Letter](#) article provides guidance to prescribers about how to get started with getting an X number. It also gives clear-cut, practical approaches for initiating therapy. Our [Pharmacist’s Letter](#) and [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#) articles provide advice for pharmacies to help minimize stigma and reduce dispensing barriers. Our [Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter article](#) gives best practices for managing transitions of care with buprenorphine products. Our FAQ, [Management of Opioid Use Disorder](#), describes how med options stack up, and our [Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide](#) is a practical tool for clinicians who want to jump on board with prescribing buprenorphine.



#### IN THIS ISSUE

- | [Practice-Changing Updates](#)..... 1
- | [Product Spotlight](#)..... 2
- | [New in the COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)..... 2
- | [News & Events](#)..... 3
- | [Continuing Education](#)..... 3
- | [June CE Course Catalog](#)..... 3
- | **Free Download!**

## Hospital Pharmacies

### Optimize Safety with IV Contrast Agents

**⚠ Pain Point:** Pharmacists and prescribers may field safety questions about IV contrast agents. Some hospital pharmacists are also asked to verify IV contrast orders. But, since pharmacists don’t commonly work with these medications, many don’t feel comfortable in this role.

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter](#) article and FAQ, [Safe Use of IV Contrast](#), answer common questions and will give pharmacists and prescribers the knowledge they need to manage patients with allergies or renal dysfunction. And, the [Hospital Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#) version of this article provides great tips for allergy documentation during medication histories to assist the pharmacist and prescriber. This is a great example of how our Letters can simplify something that many are not familiar with in an easy-to-use manner. Our article and resource can be used to answer questions and to build hospital protocols to maximize safety.

### Don’t Jump to Albumin for Decompensated Liver Disease

**⚠ Pain Point:** Albumin is a costly medication that can lead to significant side effects such as pulmonary edema. It’s used for many indications, but hospitals should limit its use where the benefits outweigh risks.

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter](#) and our [Prescriber’s Letter](#) articles review new evidence for albumin use in patients with decompensated liver disease. The article highlights when albumin should be used and when it should be avoided, and provides recommendations for how to maximize albumin safety. Our FAQ, [Decompensated Liver Failure](#), provides more detail about albumin and other treatments for common complications, such as ascites, encephalopathy, and acute bleeding.

## Natural Medicines

### Fighting False Claims about Folic Acid

**⚠ Pain Point:** Despite overwhelming evidence supporting the benefits of taking folic acid during pregnancy, some online influencers are claiming that folic acid is unsafe for many people. Healthcare professionals need to know where this misinformation is coming from to combat these claims.

**🔗 Solution:** As consumer-targeted genetic testing grows in popularity, more people are discovering that they have a minor mutation in the MTHFR gene. Although the evidence suggests no such thing, claims are circulating online that folic acid might be dangerous for people with this mutation. Many of these claims encourage the use of specific branded folate supplements, which contain L-methylfolate (L-MTHF), a converted form of folic acid. Our [Natural Medicines article](#) explains what is known about the MTHFR gene, L-MTHF supplements, and the overall safety of folic acid and folate.



## Product Spotlight

This issue, we're introducing three of our newest products, PTU Elite: Hazardous Drugs, PTU Elite: Math Mastery, and RxAdvanced!

Our new **PTU Elite: Hazardous Drugs** program ensures pharmacy technicians practice safely by providing efficient, in-depth training and assessment tools for handling hazardous drugs to meet USP <800> requirements.

**PTU Elite: Math Mastery** is a robust program that delivers efficient, online training for pharmacy technicians to support mastery of essential and commonly used calculations. We recently expanded this program to provide specifics for both community and institutional pharmacy settings.

[Learn more about our PTU Elite offerings.](#)

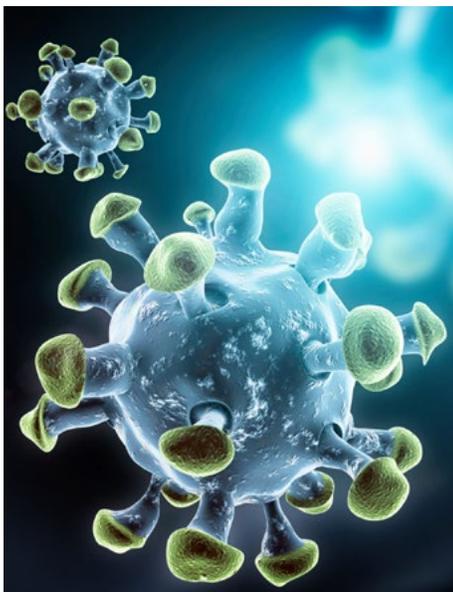
### RxAdvanced

RxAdvanced is a robust competency training program for pharmacists who are looking to advance their knowledge in key areas.

RxAdvanced programs include:

- Sterile Compounding
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Anticoagulation Management
- Hazardous Drugs
- Opioid Stewardship
- Guide to Natural Medicines

[Learn more about RxAdvanced.](#)



## New in the COVID-19 Resource Hub

Our editors continue to add new articles and clinical resources to the COVID-19 Resource Hub. Access to the hub is free - no subscription required. Recent additions and updates include:

- [Article: Help Build Trust in COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Article: Clarify the Role of Home Antigen Tests for COVID-19](#)
- [Article: Answer Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids 12 and Up](#)
- [Article: Should Kids be Taking "Immune Booster" Supplements?](#)
- [Article: Be Alert for PTSD Linked to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Chart: COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Chart: COVID-19 Point-of-Care Testing](#)
- [Algorithm: Mabs for COVID-19: Patient Assessment](#)

[Visit the COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)

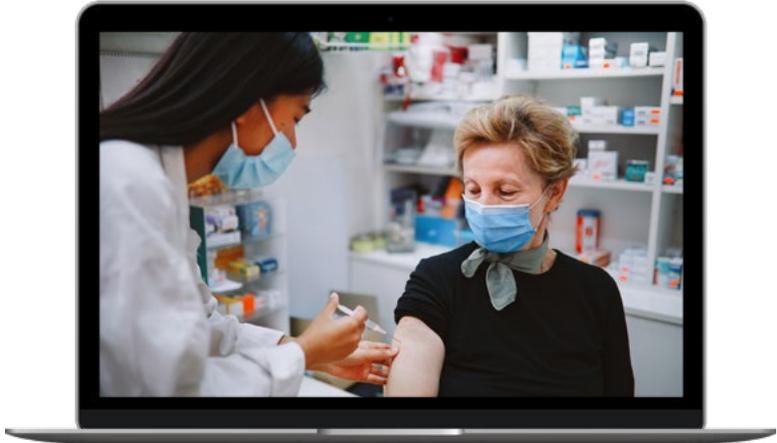
# News & Events

## Hot Topic Webinar

We now offer on-demand webinars for you to enjoy at your leisure.

For the month of June, we have a new webinar available on demand that focuses on “Building Trust in COVID-19 Vaccines.” Click [here](#) to watch for free.

**Check out our other on-demand webinars here.**



## Our Most Popular Articles/Charts for June

Did you know that you get access to popular charts depending on your Letter subscription? These are a few of our most popular charts. You can also find them on the homepage upon logging into your particular Letter subscription.



- Pharmacist’s Letter: [Overcoming Patient Communication Challenges](#)
- Pharmacy Technician’s Letter: [Management of Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- Prescriber’s Letter: [Decompensated Chronic Liver Failure](#)
- Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter: [Treatment of Lyme Disease](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician’s Letter: [Comparison of Topical Steroids](#)



## Continuing Education

Our accredited learning center for medication management offers continuing education in 13 categories, including:

- Disease State Management / Drug Therapy
- HIV / AIDS
- Law
- General Pharmacy
- Patient Safety / Medication Errors
- Archived Webinars
- Competency
- Compliance
- Hospital / Specialty
- Preceptor
- Training
- Immunization
- Compounding



## FREE DOWNLOAD! JUNE CE COURSE CATALOG

Check out our latest CE Course Catalog featuring new courses offered for June, general CE, live CE/CME, patient safety, and more!

**Click here to download**