

# Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

## Watch for Unexpected Ingredients in New Zantac Products

**⚠ Pain Point:** The new OTC *Zantac 360°* products will lead to confusion among patients and healthcare providers, since it contains an unexpected ingredient. Many people will assume these contain the acid reducer ranitidine like the original *Zantac*, but *Zantac 360°* actually contains famotidine. Ranitidine products are still off the market in the U.S., due to concerns about the impurity NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine).

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Pharmacist’s Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#), and [Prescriber’s Letter](#) articles describe strategies to prevent mix-ups with these new products. We discuss what to check for on patient medication lists to avoid therapeutic duplication, as well as how to refer to these products in written or verbal communication to limit mishaps. Subscribers can see more examples of confusing OTC brand names and their ingredients in our chart, [OTC Brand-Name Extensions](#).

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**Free Download!**



## Community Pharmacies

### When “Shorter is Better” With Antibiotics

**⚠ Pain Point:** There continues to be a big push to use shorter courses of antibiotics. Shorter courses often work just as well as longer courses, are easier to complete, and have a lower risk of adverse effects and antibiotic resistance. However, many antibiotics are still written for seven to 10 days of therapy.

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Pharmacist’s Letter](#), [Pharmacist’s Letter Canada](#), [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter Canada](#), [Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter](#), and [Prescriber’s Letter](#) articles discuss how clinicians can help curb antibiotic durations and promote antimicrobial stewardship. We describe when antibiotics may not be needed at all, when shorter courses may be recommended, and when longer courses may be appropriate based on the infection and patient-specific factors. Our FAQ, [Antibiotic Therapy: When Are Shorter Courses Better?](#) provides guidance on the appropriate duration of therapy for common infections, including acute otitis media, strep throat, UTIs, and more.

## Hospital Pharmacies

### Preventing Errors with Risky Med Labeling and Packaging

**⚠ Pain Point:** Errors caused by issues with med labeling and packaging continue to be widely reported despite current industry regulations and standards and incorporation of technology into the medication use process. While safety experts are pushing for improvements on a global scale, pharmacy staff must deal with the current state of affairs in their day-to-day practice. This necessitates awareness of potential risks and safety strategies that can help prevent errors.

**🌀 Solution:** Our [Hospital Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#) article covers three major categories of issues with med labeling and packaging: unclear labeling, look-alike packaging, and missing warnings. We link back to past content as well, to give actionable advice on specific issues such as unclear expiration dates, missing warnings on vials of paralyzing agents, and dispensing meds that require dilution prior to administration. Our offerings for this article are the [Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Meds](#) chart and [Optimizing Safety With Bar-Code Scanning](#) checklist which can both be useful as reminders for technicians and pharmacists in the hospital setting.

## Natural Medicines

### Capsaicin Might Help Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome

**⚠ Pain Point:** Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (CHS), severe nausea and vomiting caused by chronic cannabis or cannabinoid use, is a growing concern. Although emergency department visits related to CHS continue to rise, treatment options remain limited. Some new research suggests that capsaicin, from chili peppers, might be helpful.

**🔗 Solution:** CHS has led to serious complications and even death in some people. But it doesn't seem to respond well to medications that are typically used for nausea and vomiting. Many people with CHS report that they only obtain relief from scalding baths and showers. Some early research suggests that over-the-counter capsaicin creams might be helpful and could even potentially be used at home. In our [Natural Medicines](#) article, we clarify the existing evidence and provide important counseling points.

## Product Spotlight

This issue, we want to highlight one of our products that continues to grow in popularity, **Natural Medicines**.

With increased interest in alternative therapies and supplements, our **Natural Medicines** subscription is becoming more and more popular among pharmacists and prescribers.

natural  
medicines



**Natural Medicines** database is the largest, most comprehensive database available boasting more than 185,000 natural products and over 1,400 natural medicine monographs organized into practical, searchable databases to help answer your clinical questions. Clinicians have access to the tools needed to make informed, evidence-based decisions from dietary supplements to integrative therapies.

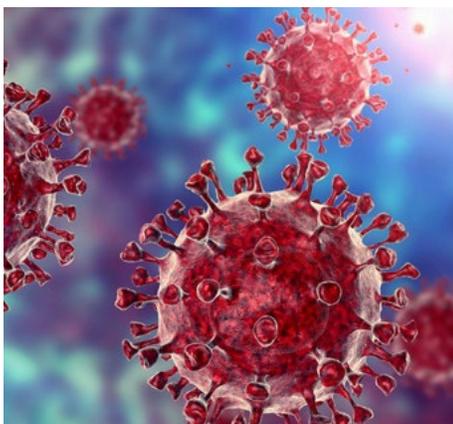
#### Tools include:

- Interaction Checker
- Comparative Effectiveness
- Adverse Effects Checker
- Pregnancy & Lactation Checker
- Helpful Charts
- Continuing Education Courses
- Nutrient Depletion Checker

Natural Medicines is also available as an API integration, providing clinicians with seamless access through your website or mobile app using our flexible API service.



Subscribe Today!



## 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: Tackle the Latest COVID-19 Vaccine Questions](#)
- [Article: Don't Rely on Antibody Testing to Assess COVID-19 Immunity](#)
- [Chart: Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#)
- [FAQ: Communicating About COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

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 July, we have a new webinar available on demand that focuses on ***New Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines.*** Click [here](#) to watch for free.

Check out our other on-demand webinars [here](#).



## CriticalPoint Upcoming Webinars

### August 25, 1:00 pm ET: *Part 4 of 4: Interactive Series Wrap-up-What's Wrong with this Picture?*

In this 4-part webinar wrap-up, participants will interactively examine a host of images and identify potential engineering-control issues, contamination-control risks, and work-practice challenges. This webinar helps identify potential improvements that can be made at your facility by recognizing issues and discussing the remediation options. Presented by Melanie Dorey, RPhT, QP503A and Adam West, RCP-SCF, NSF-49. [Register today!](#)

[Click here to check out all upcoming CriticalPoint webinars](#)

## Our Most Popular Articles/Charts for July



- Pharmacist's Letter: [How to Manage Bites and Stings](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [Monitoring ACEIs and ARBs](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Dangerous Abbreviations](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Comparison of Oral Contraceptives and Non-Oral Alternatives](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Practical Tips for Avoiding Jet Lag](#)
- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Antibiotic Therapy: When Are Shorter Courses Better?](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Drug Options for Hypertensive Emergency](#)



## Continuing Education

TRC's 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! JULY CE COURSE CATALOG

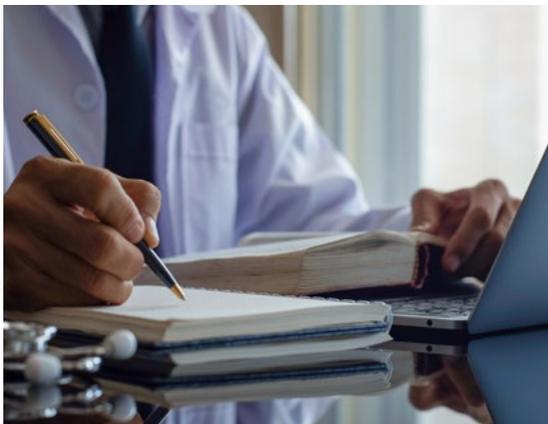
Check out our latest CE Course Catalog featuring new courses offered for July, general CE, live CE/CME, patient safety, and more!

[Click here to download](#)



## New CE Requirement Updates

Compounding courses have been updated and are now available! Depending on what your pharmacy team is following, it's important to note that courses with 2019 in their titles are based on the draft standards released by USP in 2019. The courses with older years in their title (not 2019) are currently the "official" USP standards.



### Hospital courses, newly released (all pharmacist-only CE)

- Inpatient Management of Diabetes & Hyperglycemia (21-214)
- Neonatal Intensive Care Medications (21-219)
- Preventing & Treating Stroke (21-210)
- Sedation, Delirium, & Agitation in Adult ICU Patients (21-211)
- Responding to a Code Blue (21-212)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Overview (21-217)

### Michigan's New CE Requirements

- Ethics & Jurisprudence course (1 hour required for pharmacists)
  - o Ethical Considerations in Pharmacy Law (21-317) - 1 hour course that covers this requirement that can also be taken by technicians