

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

Educate Why *Aduhelm* Isn't a Miracle for Alzheimer's

Pain Point: *Aduhelm* (aducanumab) is the first new medication for Alzheimer's disease in almost 20 years, and it's received lots of media attention due to controversy surrounding the FDA review process and its approval. Patients with Alzheimer's disease and their families are often looking for a glimmer of hope, but *Aduhelm* is not the answer.

Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles explain how *Aduhelm* ended up getting FDA approval, even though the FDA advisory committee voted against its approval. It includes information on how surrogate endpoints were measured, and how this doesn't always lead to improvements in patient outcomes. Practical implications are also highlighted, such as patients needing three MRIs in the first year of use to monitor for side effects (brain microhemorrhages and edema), that it costs at least \$56,000/year, and how some payers are already not covering the med. Our FAQ, [Alzheimer's Dementia Pharmacotherapy](#), includes talking points about efficacy and the side effects of other options.

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Community Pharmacies

Empowering Pharmacy Technicians to Take on Advanced Roles

Pain Point: Pharmacy technicians have long been the backbone of pharmacy practice. COVID-19 was a catalyst for technicians to take on new activities and further expand their roles. But these changes will last beyond the pandemic, creating an opportunity for both technicians and pharmacists to practice at the top of their abilities.

Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#) and [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#) articles describe specific activities in which technicians can participate. For example, qualified pharmacy technicians can administer certain vaccines (COVID-19, flu, etc.) under supervision of the pharmacist. With point-of-care testing training, technicians may be able to go beyond simply gathering paperwork or scheduling, to also obtain samples or vital signs. Guidance is provided on how to identify new roles for technicians in supporting other patient care services and pharmacy operations. Our PTU Elite programs can help train technicians on immunizations, point-of-care testing, soft skills, and more, so both technicians and pharmacists feel comfortable as these roles expand.

Hospital Pharmacies

Lean Toward Tocilizumab as an Add-On to Steroids for COVID-19 Treatment

Pain Point: As hospitals are seeing surges of patients hospitalized with COVID-19, new medications are being authorized for treatment. Hospitals will need to determine whether to add tocilizumab or baricitinib to steroids for their COVID-19 treatment protocols and criteria for use. In addition, contingency plans are needed since shortages with tocilizumab are already occurring. It's challenging to quickly approve changes to hospital protocols, especially given the limited data and resources being used for COVID-19 patient surges.

Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles and chart, [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#), review the available evidence and new emergency use authorizations (EUA). Recommendations are provided that hospitals can use to update their treatment protocols including when to consider adding a medication to steroids for COVID-19 treatment, which medication to choose, and why.

Natural Medicines

Mindfulness & Meditation are Picking up Momentum

⚠ Pain Point: Mindfulness and meditation have been gaining traction over the past year as people grapple with anxiety and depression related to the pandemic. A wide range of apps and websites claim to guide people through evidence-based versions of these practices, but many healthcare providers remain skeptical about their benefits.

🌀 Solution: As the popularity of mindfulness and meditation has grown, so has the body of evidence supporting these practices. In fact, there are several articles showing that mindfulness may be beneficial for reducing stress and improving sleep. However, mindfulness is called “a practice” for a reason – a person must apply it consistently in order to see the benefits. In our [Natural Medicines article](#), we update healthcare providers on the available evidence related to safety and effectiveness.

The Latest on Fruit Juice and Drug Interactions

⚠ Pain Point: Most providers are aware that grapefruit juice can interact with a large number of medications, but not as many are aware that a variety of other fruit juices, including apple, orange, and goji, can also interact with medications.

🌀 Solution: Fruit juices, especially those being marketed as super fruits, have experienced a recent surge in popularity. But drinking these fruits for supposed health benefits may place some people at risk for significant drug interactions. While some fruit-drug interactions can be avoided simply by separating the timing of administration, others aren't as easy to prevent. Our [Natural Medicines article](#) provides an update on the evidence, along with practical recommendations.

Product Spotlight

This issue, we're highlighting two of our newest programs, **PTU Elite: Point-of-Care Testing** and **RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication**.

[PTU Elite: Point-of-Care Testing](#) is the latest addition to our PTU Elite offerings. This program trains experienced pharmacy technicians to perform CLIA-waived tests that screen for chronic diseases like diabetes and high cholesterol, and identify infectious illnesses such as COVID-19, flu, HIV, and more.

This 10-hour, online training gives your pharmacy technicians total mastery of the necessary skills to:

- Identify candidates for testing
- Administer and process tests safely
- Complete vital administrative tasks

With Point-of-Care Testing, pharmacies gain competent, well-trained pharmacy technicians equipped to maximize your pharmacy's revenue, build valued relationships, and improve patient health.



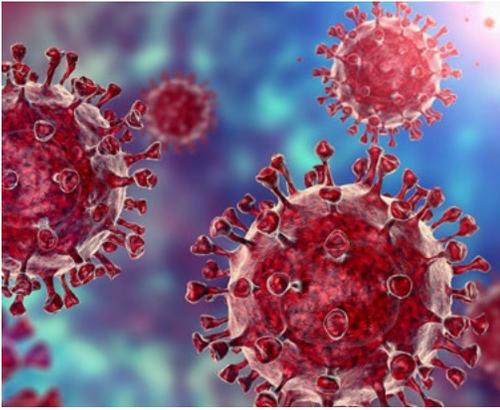
[RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) is our newest program recently added to our advanced pharmacist training program, RxAdvanced. Leadership & Communication is aimed to improve confidence during everyday interactions to help build relationships and lead others.

This program covers the gamut of patient-focused and provider-facing interactions, including:

- Identifying opportunities to offer helpful patient advice and preventive care
- Managing written, verbal, and non-verbal communication in a dynamic environment
- Collaborating with healthcare providers to promote health and prevent errors

Leadership & Communication encourages pharmacists to be effective leaders who drive practice change and optimize patient care within your pharmacy.

[Get a Quote](#)



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: [Steroid Add-Ons for COVID-19](#)
- Article: [Latest on COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibodies](#)
- Chart: [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#)

[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 August, we have a new webinar available on demand that focuses on **Using Aducanumab (Aduhelm) for Alzheimer's Disease**. Click [here](#) to watch for free.

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



CriticalPoint Upcoming Webinars

September 22, 1:00 pm ET: *Decommissioning and Removal/Relocation of C-PECs*

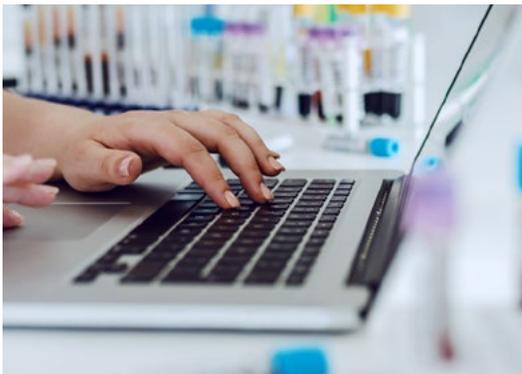
Health and safety are of primary concern when working with hazardous drugs and the devices used to compound them. When you need a new C-PEC, do you know all the recommended protocols for properly decommissioning the old, hazardous C-PEC? This webinar will cover the process of decommissioning and removal/relocation of C-PECs and considerations that promote the safest way to do so. Presented by Adam West, RCP-SCF, NSF-49. [Register today!](#)

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

Our Most Popular Articles/Charts for August



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Common Oral Medications that May Need Tapering](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Characteristics of Transdermal Patches](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [Weight Loss Products](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [DMARDs for Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Managing Chronic Meds in Patients Undergoing Colonoscopy](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Targeted Temperature Management Strategies](#)



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! AUGUST CE COURSE CATALOG

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

[Click here to download](#)

