

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions



Watch for *Vuity*, an Eye Drop to Improve Near Vision

⚠ Pain Point: New Rx *Vuity* (pilocarpine 1.25%) will be the first eye drop for “presbyopia,” or age-related difficulty seeing up close. This medication is getting a lot of buzz in the lay press as a possible alternative to reading glasses for older adults, and clinicians need to be ready to answer patient questions.

🌀 Solution: Our [Pharmacist’s Letter](#), [Prescriber’s Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacist’s Letter](#), and [Hospital Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#) articles clarify how *Vuity* compares to other pilocarpine eye drops, pros and cons of the new med, and the bottom line on whether to recommend this product. Our Pharmacy Technician’s Letter article gives additional advice on how to calculate days’ supply and avoid inappropriate substitutions, and our Hospital Letters discuss how to prevent mix-ups during transitions of care. Pharmacy teams can access our FAQ, *Vuity (Pilocarpine): Old Drug With a New Use*, for other details, such as using the product with contact lenses and other eye drops.

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Practice-Changing Updates](#)1
- [Product Spotlight](#).....2
- [Natural Medicines Resource Hub](#).....3
- [New in the COVID-19 Resource Hub](#).....3
- [News & Events](#).....3
- [Continuing Education](#) ... 4
- [January CE Course Catalog](#)..... 4
- Free Download!**

Community Pharmacies

Clarify the Role of Turmeric for COVID-19 and Other Uses

⚠ Pain Point: Turmeric was one of the top-selling herbal supplements in 2020. Now patients are also hearing that turmeric speeds COVID-19 recovery.

🌀 Solution: Our [Pharmacist’s Letter](#), [Prescriber’s Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter](#), [Pharmacist’s Letter Canada](#), and [Pharmacy Technician’s Letter Canada](#) articles discuss what evidence does...and doesn’t...exist for turmeric for various uses. Advice is given about whether patients should rely on turmeric, whether to use turmeric supplements instead of the spice, and how to select a supplement if one will be used. Our new FAQ, *Tips About Turmeric*, provides details about adverse effects and possible drug interactions with turmeric. Our [Natural Medicines](#) is also highlighted as a key resource for a comprehensive review of turmeric and guidance about other supplements.

Hospital Pharmacies

Help Avoid Snags with Antidotes

⚠ Pain Point: Antidotes can play a critical role in reversing toxic effects of meds and other substances. Timely administration is often key for optimizing benefits. However, these meds may be used infrequently, which can result in pharmacy staff being less familiar with them.

🌀 Solution: Our [Pharmacy Technician’s Hospital Letter](#) article provides hospital pharmacy technicians with strategies for helping to avoid delays and other potentially dangerous issues with antidotes. Multiple practical examples of antidotes are given, emphasizing knowing where these meds are kept and making sure adequate quantities are on-hand to prevent unnecessary scrambling. We also point out potential errors involving antidotes. Our Technician Tutorial that’s offered with this article, *Inpatient Emergencies 101*, has a broad overview of other critical situations that hospital techs should be prepared for.

Natural Medicines

Kicking Bad Habits: Do Any Natural Medicines Help?

⚠ Pain Point: As we enter a new year, many people may be interested in kicking bad habits, such as use of alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and more. The internet abounds with recommendations on using natural remedies to aid with these types of resolutions, but some suggestions are safer and more beneficial than others.

🌀 Solution: We recently published a new [Natural Medicines](#) article about kicking bad habits in the new year. Our article summarizes what natural medicines could be helpful. A wide range of natural products have been evaluated for these uses, but the quality of the evidence, as well as the findings, vary. For instance, there is a lot of interest in using cannabidiol (CBD) to help reduce cannabis use, but so far, the evidence is inconclusive. And some CBD products have been found to contain THC, the psychoactive chemical in cannabis that can cause dependence. In this article, we review options that are likely to be safe, as well as those that should be avoided.



Product Spotlight

This issue we're featuring [PTU Elite](#), our advanced pharmacy technician training programs that helps technicians advance their careers by developing essential competencies to enhance pharmacy practice.

TRC Healthcare built these online training programs to give pharmacies affordable, lifelong training solutions for pharmacy technicians. Pharmacies of all sizes can use PTU Elite to attract and retain experienced pharmacy technicians, especially those who are interested in career development, higher levels of competency, growth opportunities, and advancement.



Available [PTU Elite](#) programs include:

- **Immunizations**
Delivers comprehensive competency and skills-based training on immunization administration policies and procedures.
- **CSPT™ Training**
Provides an efficient and affordable program to train PTCB-certified pharmacy technicians to pass the PTCB CSPT™ exam.
- **Soft Skills**
Helps pharmacy technicians build and develop essential competencies that lead to safer, patient-centered care and improved staff retention.
- **Math Mastery**
Teaches pharmacy technicians in community and institutional settings essential and commonly used calculations, including measurement conversions, dosages, quantities to dispense, days' supply, dilutions, and more.
- **Hazardous Drugs**
Ensures pharmacy technicians practice safely by providing efficient, in-depth training and assessment tools for handling hazardous drugs to meet USP <800> requirements.
- **Point-of-Care Testing**
A comprehensive training program that prepares pharmacy technicians to improve pharmacy efficiency by performing point-of-care tests.

Available as a group purchase, PTU Elite is designed to support pharmacies that show their commitment to excellence by providing lifelong learning and career advancement to high-performing pharmacy technicians.

Equip your pharmacy technicians with PTU Elite today!

[Get a Quote](#)



Natural Medicines Resource Hub

Our Natural Medicines Resource Hub provides the tools to learn about popular ingredients, common uses, potential safety concerns, and interactions. Resources include:

- Article: [Why is Apple Cider Vinegar So Popular?](#)
- Chart: [Drug-Supplement Interactions](#)
- Article: Flu Season Facts: [Answering Questions About Elderberry](#)

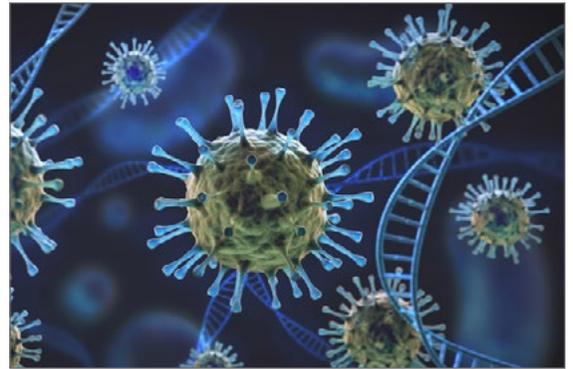
[Check out the Natural Medicines Resource Hub here!](#)

COVID-19 Resource Hub

Our editors continue to add new articles and clinical resources to the COVID-19 Resource Hub. Recent additions and updates include:

- Article: [Molnupiravir to Treat COVID-19](#)
- Chart: [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#)
- Article: [Preventing Vaccine Errors](#)

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



News & Events



Hot Topic Webinar

For January, we have a new on-demand webinar available featuring an expert panel discussion and clinical guidance on **Medications for End-of-Life Care**. Listen as **Dwight Blair, MD**, Inpatient Palliative Care Consultant, New Hanover Regional Medical Center and other panelists discuss and answer common clinical questions. Click here to watch for free. Click [here](#) to watch for free.

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



CriticalPoint Upcoming Webinars

Join us February 2, 2022 for a live webinar on **HEPA-Filter Integrity Testing Basics**, hosted by CriticalPoint's Environmental Monitoring and Training Specialist, Adam West. Learn more about performing HEPA filter integrity testing, also known as leak testing, and which method of testing is best for each type of filter, housing, and overall design of airflow delivery. **Register today!**



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

Our Most Popular Charts for January



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Sepsis Management in Adults](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Cost-Effective Use of Sugammadex](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [E-Cigarettes and Vaping](#)
- Pharmacy Letter Canada: [Meds to Treat Prostate Cancer](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Medications for End-of-Life Care](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Managing Menopausal Vasomotor Symptoms](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Tips about Turmeric](#)



Continuing Education

TRC Healthcare'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! JANUARY CE COURSE CATALOG

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

[Click here to download](#)

