

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

Clarify New Guidelines for Prevnar 20 and Vaxneuvance

⚠ Pain Point: Two new pneumococcal vaccines, Prevnar 20 and 15-valent Vaxneuvance, are leading to changes in CDC adult pneumococcal guidelines. Clinicians need clarity on which adults should get one of these new pneumococcal vaccines, and when.



🔄 Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Prescriber's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), and [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#) highlight which immunizations are recommended for adults 65 and up, or 19 to 64 with risk factors (cancer, diabetes, smoking, etc.), as well as the timeframe in which they should be administered based on patient risk factors and vaccine history. Our Letters go beyond the guidelines and suggest a simplified approach to giving these vaccines, which may be more practical and less costly. Our Pharmacist's Letter, Prescriber's Letter, and Hospital Pharmacist's Letter articles give additional guidance on pneumococcal vaccinations in kids, including when Prevnar 20 and Vaxneuvance are anticipated for approval in children. Our Pharmacy Technician's Letter and Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter articles also discuss getting complete and accurate vaccine histories, since this may influence the choice and timing of when the pneumococcal vaccine is given. Clinicians can use our new algorithm, [Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults](#), to guide patient-specific decisions, and our chart, [Comparison of Pneumococcal Vaccines](#), offers side-by-side look at products.

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Community Pharmacies

Know What Questions to Ask About Suicide

⚠ Pain Point: Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and prescribers are on the front lines to help people at risk of suicide as the pandemic forces many to juggle stress, health concerns, loss, etc.

🔄 Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Prescriber's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter Canada](#), and [Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada](#) articles discuss practical ways to normalize conversations and reduce stigma about suicide in personal and professional interactions. Warning signs or clues that a person may be thinking about suicide are described, as well as how to effectively communicate if there are red flags. All of our Letters highlight the "Ask. Listen. Connect" approach, which includes how to ask a person directly if they are thinking about suicide, listening calmly without judging or giving advice, and connecting with resources ASAP. Contact info for suicide prevention resources are also provided, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line. Our chart, [Dealing With Stress: Healthy Habits and Resources](#), offers more coping tactics and self-care strategies. Our pharmacist CE: *Suicide Assessment, Prevention, and Intervention*, describes additional best practices for follow-up and reducing future risk.

Hospital Pharmacies

Know the Rules About Wearing Makeup While Sterile Compounding

⚠ Pain Point: Pharmacy staff should not wear cosmetics in sterile compounding areas due to an increased risk of contamination. However, USP<797> does not define what is considered a cosmetic, so there can be confusion over this point as well as difficulty in enforcing pharmacy policies.

🌀 Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#) and [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#) articles clarify that makeup should not be worn in sterile compounding areas, because flakes and particles can be shed, plus makeup contains microorganisms. We go into more detail, including the possibility of pharmacies prohibiting other cosmetics, the fact that coverings such as goggles are not recommended in place of removing makeup, and that even quick trips into a compounding area should not occur if an individual is wearing makeup. In these articles, we provide subscribers a link to CriticalPoint in-person courses, and information about our CE course, Sterile Compounding: Aseptic Technique.

Natural Medicines

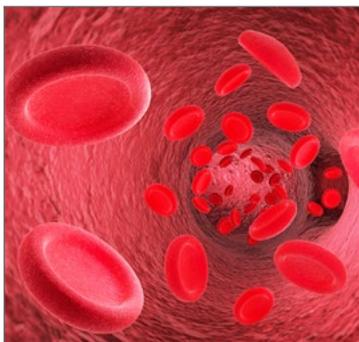
New Article: Cannabinoids Getting COVID-19 Attention

⚠ Pain Point: Recent headlines have touted various cannabinoids, including cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabigerol (CBG), as potential treatments for COVID-19. Healthcare providers should be prepared to answer questions from patients who may be looking to use cannabis, hemp, or cannabinoids for this purpose.

🌀 Solution: Our new [Natural Medicines](#) article explains how the evidence supporting these new claims is based solely on in vitro research, which doesn't often align with effects in humans. In fact, a well-designed clinical study evaluating CBD in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 has already been published, and it didn't identify any benefit. Also, although all of the research thus far has only evaluated specific cannabinoids, there is growing interest in the use of whole cannabis for COVID-19, which may carry safety concerns. We discuss all of this and more in our article.



Product Spotlight: RxAdvanced: Anticoagulation Management



Patients who receive anticoagulant therapies rely on well-trained healthcare experts to assess, monitor, and manage their treatments. That makes anticoagulation management a critical area of practice for pharmacists. Many hospital and institutional pharmacies recognize the need to invest in training to help pharmacists develop advanced knowledge of anticoagulants, especially for complex regimens that are necessary to treat or prevent acute and chronic conditions.

WTRC Healthcare offers [RxAdvanced: Anticoagulation Management](#) as a comprehensive training program to prepare pharmacists for their integral role in anticoagulation medication management.

Now available for individual and group purchases.

Just Launched: NatMed Advisor

NatMed Advisor is a mobile-friendly, consumer-facing library of reliable information on natural medicines and alternative therapies. Co-brand NatMed Advisor and add value for patients by giving them access to the latest research about natural medicines safety, effectiveness, and dosing.

Read more about how you can provide [NatMed Advisor](#) to your patients.





Immunization Resource Hub

Our Immunization Resource Hub provides recommendations, clinical resources, and other guidance to stay on top of the latest non-COVID-19 immunization recommendations and ensure your patients are properly vaccinated. Resources include:

- Article: [Giving IM Vaccinations Properly](#)
- Chart: [Vaccinating Immunocompromised Patients](#)
- Algorithm: [Addressing Vaccine Myths and Hesitancy](#)

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

Opioid Resource Hub

Our Opioid Resource Hub provides recommendations, charts, and other resources on opioid related topics such as adverse effects, misuse, overdose, and diversion. Resources include:

Managing pain with opioids is one of the most challenging areas of clinical practice. The benefits of opioids must be weighed against the risks of adverse effects, misuse, overdose, and diversion.

- Article: [Dental Problems with Buprenorphine](#)
- FAQ: [Opioid Allergy](#)
- Chart: [Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome](#)



[Visit the Opioid Resource Hub](#)

News & Events



Hot Topic Webinar

For March, we have a new on-demand webinar available featuring an expert panel discussion and clinical guidance on **Comparing Pneumococcal Vaccines**. Listen as Amanda Applegate, PharmD, BCACP Director of Practice Development, and Paul Hunter, MD Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Wisconsin - School of Medicine and Public Health, and other panelists discuss and answer common clinical questions. Click [here](#) to watch for free.

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

CriticalPoint Upcoming Trainings

Enroll your pharmacy team in CriticalPoint's industry-leading training program to improve compounding competency and pharmacy expertise. Hosted at the CriticalPoint Center for Training and Research in Totowa, New Jersey, your team will receive expert advice from compounding specialists and learn first-hand about best practices for nonhazardous sterile-to-sterile compounding. Live trainings available starting in May 2022. [Register today!](#)

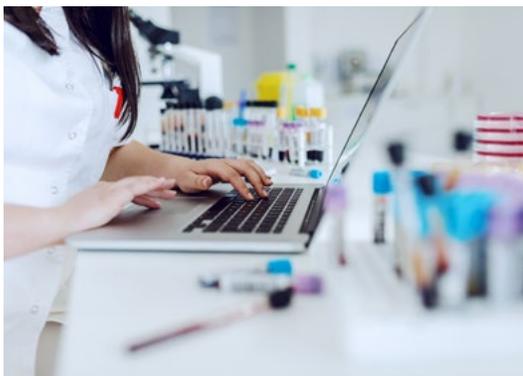
[Click here to check out all upcoming CriticalPoint webinars](#)



Our Most Popular Charts for March



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Management of Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Meds Used for Organ Donors](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [Corticosteroids: Selection, Tapering, and More](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [Treatments for Dry Eyes](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Drug Allergies](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Managing Eczema](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Pharmacotherapy of Neuropathic Pain](#)



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! MARCH CE COURSE CATALOG

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

[Click here to download](#)

