

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

Help Reduce Barriers to *Paxlovid* (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) for COVID-19

⚠ Pain Point: High-risk outpatients with COVID-19 who are eligible for the oral antiviral *Paxlovid* (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) should start taking the medication within 5 days of symptom onset. However, patients may face treatment delays for a variety of reasons. In addition, many clinicians have questions about how to use *Paxlovid* safely and appropriately, especially since it interacts with many other medications.



🔗 Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter Canada](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles provide answers to the top questions that may pose barriers to prescribing or dispensing *Paxlovid*. Practical approaches are provided to manage common drug interactions. Other common questions about patient eligibility, proper use, and tips to improve tolerability are also addressed. Our resource, [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#), has guidance about the role of other medications for treating COVID-19.

**Note: After this article went to press, the FDA authorized pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid with certain limitations.*

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Community Pharmacies

Clarify the Role of *Mounjaro* (tirzepatide) for Type 2 Diabetes

⚠ Pain Point: Injectable Rx *Mounjaro* (tirzepatide), the first “twincretin” for type 2 diabetes, is now available. It’s being touted as a gamechanger, partly because of its effects on lowering blood glucose and causing weight loss. Clinicians will need to understand where this new drug fits in to the management of type 2 diabetes.

🔗 Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles explain how this new drug works, delineates pros and cons, and gives a bottom line about its place in therapy compared to other drugs for type 2 diabetes. Practical pearls to promote appropriate use of this new medication are also provided. Our updated resource, [Drugs for Type 2 Diabetes](#), gives clinicians a side-by-side comparison of tirzepatide to other medications, and our [Diabetes Resource Hub](#) provides a comprehensive collection of helpful tools for use in practice.

Hospital Pharmacies

Consider Subcutaneous Insulin to Treat DKA

⚠ Pain Point: New evidence is leading to questions about the role of subcutaneous insulin, instead of IV, to treat diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA).

🔗 Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#) article reviews the evidence comparing subcutaneous and IV insulin for DKA treatment. It provides recommendations for when to consider using subcutaneous insulin to treat DKA, and emphasizes the need to educate clinicians and create a protocol before implementation. Guidance on how to dose and adjust subcutaneous insulin is provided, along with monitoring requirements. Other treatment options that should be included, such as fluids and electrolytes, are reviewed. Our resource, [Hyperglycemia in the Hospital](#), takes a deeper dive into treating DKA and other common causes of hyperglycemia.



Natural Medicines



Beer, Wine, and Drug Interactions

⚠ Pain Point: There are many complex interactions between drugs and alcohol. With the steep increase in alcohol use that occurred during the pandemic, questions about these interactions have become more common.

🔗 Solution: Although many people may think of beer and wine as recreational beverages, they have also been used for a variety of health purposes for centuries. Our Natural Medicines Beer and Wine monographs focus on those alternative uses, but also provide extensive information on how to manage drug interactions. Many subscribers may not realize that our [Drug Interaction Checker](#) can be used to identify interactions between beer, wine, and drugs. Our [Natural Medicines](#) article reviews some of the more common and confusing interactions and directs readers to this helpful tool.

Product Spotlight: RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication

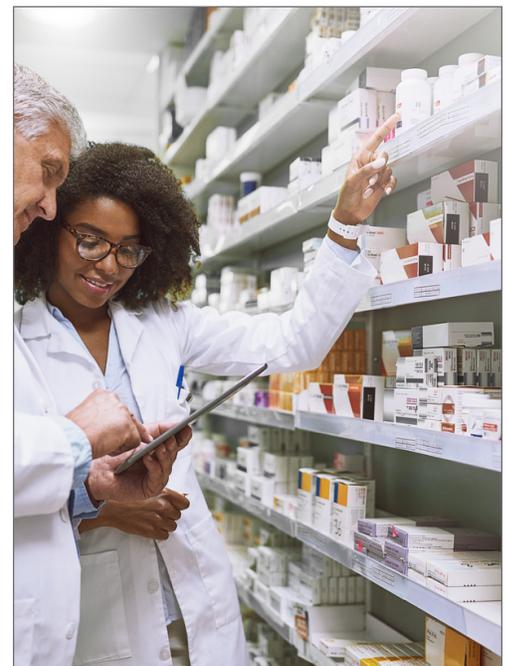
[RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) is one of the many advanced pharmacist training programs that we offer under our [RxAdvanced training suite](#). This program was created by our team of experts to provide pharmacies with an all-inclusive leadership training program for your pharmacists.

It's more important than ever to ensure that your pharmacy teams have the confidence and communication skills to build relationships with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare providers. However, we understand that many organizations are struggling to provide leadership training for their pharmacists and often resort to creating their own in-house trainings that tend to become costly and don't quite hit the mark. With [RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#), pharmacies can rest easy knowing they are creating a positive environment by fostering leadership skills that promote teamwork and effective communication and collaboration.

[RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) is a comprehensive, ACPE-accredited program that offers:

- Cost-effective pricing based on the size of your organization
- Fast insights with the ability to report and track learner progress and completion
- Enhanced trainings that help manage rapid change and avoid burnout that can influence turnover

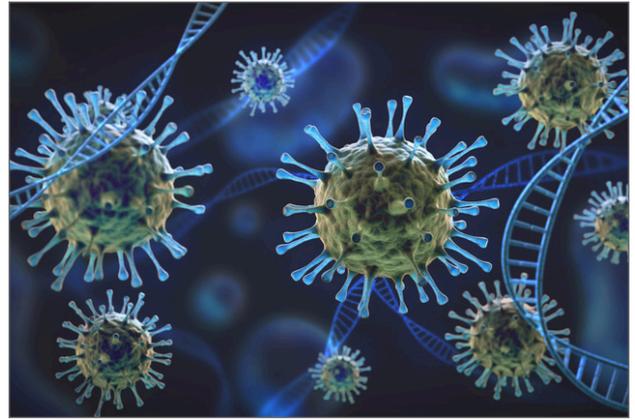
Empower your pharmacists to be effective, confident leaders. Get started with [RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#), and don't forget to ask about our group discounts!



COVID-19 Resource Hub

Our COVID-19 Resource Hub provides recommendations, clinical resources, and other guidance to help you navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications in your community and practice. Our recent updates include:

- Article: [Help Ensure Access to Paxlovid for COVID-19](#)
- Chart: [Treatments of Interest for COVID-19](#)
- FAQ: [COVID-19 and Thromboembolism: FAQs](#)



[Check Out the full COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)

News & Events



Webinars for July

Hot Topic

Hot Topic: Managing Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

This month's TRC Hot Topic on-demand webinar features an expert panel discussion and clinical guidance on Managing Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Listen as Kenneth Cusi, MD and other panelists discuss and answer common clinical questions.

[Watch the webinar.](#)



On-Demand Webinar

How does medical cannabis play a role in pain management and supportive care in oncology?

Did you miss our webinar about cannabis use for pain management in oncology last month? Speakers, Pam Piotrowski, RPh, MBA, and Keith Marston, Solutions Executive, covered a brief overview of the RxAdvanced training suite, and dove into the ins and outs of cannabis use for pain management and supportive care in oncology. [Watch the recording.](#)

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

Our Most Popular Charts for July



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Prevention and Management of Burnout for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Drugs for Type 2 Diabetes \(United States\)](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [Magnesium Supplements](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [Naloxone for Opioid Overdose](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Dangerous Abbreviations](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Compression Stockings FAQs](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Drugs With Prescribing, Dispensing, or REMS Requirements \(United States\)](#)

Continuing Education

Free CE Course for July!

This month, we're offering a free course under our [RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) pharmacist training program, **Collaborating and Communicating With the Healthcare Team**, ACPE Course #: JA0006454-0000-21-2225-H04-P. This free course is available to all Pharmacist's Letter subscribers.



Among other things, pharmacists who complete this 1-hour CE course will be able to:

- Suggest at least three strategies for using effective communication methods in the workplace.
- Recommend ways to minimize distractions and interruptions to reduce miscommunications in the workplace.
- Describe at least four strategies to improve communication with prescribers, nurses, and other office staff.
- Identify the four principles of the blueprint for managing conflict in the workplace.
- Describe at least three strategies to promote teamwork in the workplace.

[RxAdvanced](#) provides pharmacists with CE credits from an ACPE-accredited provider with content that deepens knowledge and practical skills in critical subjects.

[Learn More About this Free Course](#)