

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

Ensure Appropriate Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) Dosing

Pain Point: Direct oral anticoagulant dosing errors continue to come up, since dosing of the various DOACs differs based on indication (atrial fibrillation, venous thromboembolism, etc), kidney impairment, weight, and drug interactions. In addition, DOAC dosing is a delicate balance. If DOAC doses are too high, patients are at risk of bleeding, and if DOAC doses are too low, patients are at risk of a clotting event.

Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter Canada](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles include guidance on dosing based on key factors. The articles point out when general rules can be applied, and when there are nuances. Practical recommendations are highlighted, such as for prescribers to include DOAC indication and duration on the prescription to help the pharmacist double-check the dose. Our resource, [Appropriate Use of Oral Anticoagulants](#), has advice about choosing a DOAC, including details for special populations (cancer, etc).

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Practice-Changing Updates](#)1
- [Product Spotlight](#).....2
- [Immunization Resource Hub](#).....3
- [News & Events](#).....3
- [Continuing Education](#)4

Community Pharmacies

Keep Adolescents on Track with Immunizations

Pain Point: Only about 60% of adolescents are current with immunizations, and things worsened during the pandemic. In addition, adolescent vaccines (HPV, meningococcal, Tdap) are less “top of mind” than routine pediatric vaccines, and some (e.g., HPV) are linked with myths.

Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles highlight that back-to-school season brings opportunities to help adolescents catch up on routine vaccinations. Guidance is provided about key adolescent vaccines, how to address common concerns with adolescent vaccination (e.g., fainting), and how to dispel myths (e.g., that giving Gardasil 9 promotes sexual activity). The articles also advise taking the opportunity to give all needed vaccines (flu, hep A, etc.) at the same visit. Our updated [Immunization Resource Hub](#) is highlighted and includes tools to start discussions, address hesitancy, and prevent vaccine-related injury.



Hospital Pharmacies

Minimize Waste in Your Pharmacy's Budget

⚠ Pain Point: Billions of dollars' worth of medications go to waste every year in hospitals.

🔄 Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#) article gives technicians strategies for spotting waste and reducing unnecessary waste of medications. It emphasizes the importance of paying attention to med costs and knowing which meds can be very expensive, such as some antibiotics, biologics, and chemotherapy agents. Common places where waste happens are highlighted, along with ways it can be mitigated. There is a nod to worsening shortages as a potential unexpected consequence of waste, and a link to our [recent article](#) on this topic. Our resource, [The Ins and Outs of Pharmacy Inventory](#), provides a broad overview of how inventory in pharmacies works, from procurement to determining and maintaining stock levels, returns, etc.

Natural Medicines



Keto Concerns on the Rise

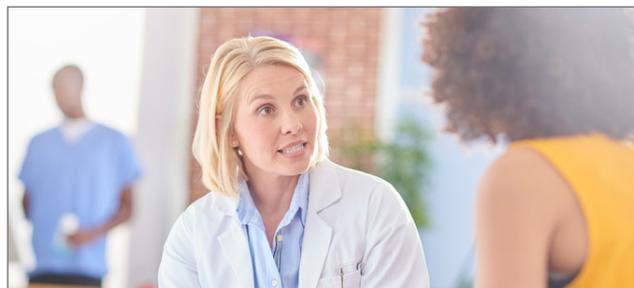
⚠ Pain Point: The ketogenic diet has maintained its popularity for many years now, and grocery store shelves are full of products claiming to be “keto friendly.” But there are many misconceptions about the ketogenic diet, and many people may be unaware of the risks that come with long-term adherence to this diet.

🔄 Solution: This diet, of which there are many variations, is often used for weight loss and to manage blood glucose. Regardless of the variation that is used, its purported benefits depend on the body entering a state of ketosis, which only occurs if the diet is followed consistently. Our [Natural Medicines](#) article explains what is actually required to induce ketosis and discusses some of the serious adverse effects that have been associated with strict adherence to the diet, such as pancreatitis, “keto rash,” kidney stones, and an increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA).

Product Spotlight: RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication

As we close out Immunization Awareness month, we're featuring our [RxAdvanced Leadership & Communication](#) training program that prepares pharmacists to effectively consult with patients, including those who may have vaccine hesitancy.

With nine hours of engaging, interactive training, this program offers CE credits from an ACPE-accredited provider. Each course focuses on specific topics that ultimately help pharmacists gain confidence and skills to improve patient care and strengthen relationships within the pharmacy.



Upon completion of the **Engaging and Motivating Patients During Consultation** course, pharmacists will be able to:

- Differentiate between traditional counseling and motivational interviewing.
- Identify statements that are consistent with the four principles of motivational interviewing.
- Describe the communication skills and techniques that can be used in the framework of motivational interviewing.
- Identify “change talk” during consultations with patients.
- Suggest strategies for incorporating motivational interviewing into conversations with patients.

Additional patient-focused courses teach best practices for empathic care, managing conflict, and working with diverse populations including patients with language barriers and low health literacy.

[RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) is an affordable training program with pricing that is based on the size of your organization. Equipped with fast insights, administrators are easily able to track and report learner progress and completion. Additionally, the flexible format allows you to add an organization-specific file to the training program.

[RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication](#) is one of the many advanced pharmacist training programs that we offer under our [RxAdvanced](#) training suite, including [Antimicrobial Stewardship](#), [Anticoagulation Management](#), [Guide to Natural Medicines](#), [Guide to Cannabis](#), [Opioid Stewardship](#), [Sterile Compounding](#), and [Hazardous Drugs](#).

Support your pharmacists with training that helps create a positive workplace and enhance patient relationships.

[Get a quote today!](#)

Immunization Resource Hub

Our Immunization Resource Hub includes recommendations, clinical resources, and other guidance to help you stay on top of the latest recommendations and ensure your patients are properly vaccinated. Our recent updates include:

- Article: [Keep Adolescents on Track With Immunizations](#)
- Chart: [Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults](#)
- FAQ: [Vaccine Adherence: Addressing Myths and Hesitancy](#)

[Check out the full Immunization Resource Hub.](#)



News & Events



Webinar for August

Hot Topic: *Managing Statin Intolerance*

This month's TRC Hot Topic on-demand webinar features an expert panel discussion and clinical guidance on **Managing Statin Intolerance**. Listen as Joseph Saseen, PharmD, FNLA, BCPS, and other panelists discuss and answer common clinical questions

[Watch the webinar.](#)

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

Our Most Popular Charts for August



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Hyperglycemia in the Hospital](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Meds for Opioid Overdose](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [Choosing a Hormonal Contraceptive](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [Improving Asthma Care](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Analgesics for Osteoarthritis](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Magic Mouthwash Recipes](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Comparison of ADHD Medications \(United States\)](#)

Continuing Education

Free CE Course for August!

This month, we're offering a free course from our RxAdvanced: Leadership & Communication pharmacist training program, **Engaging and Motivating Patients During Consultation**, ACPE Course #: JA0006454-0000-21-2224-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:

- Differentiate between traditional counseling and motivational interviewing
- Identify statements that are consistent with the four principles of motivational interviewing
- Describe the communication skills and techniques that can be used in the framework of motivational interviewing
- Identify "change talk" during consultations with patients
- Suggest strategies for incorporating motivational interviewing into conversations with patients

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](#)