

Practice-Changing Pharmacy Updates: Pain Points & Solutions

Educate About Monkeypox...and Limit Misinformation

⚠ Pain Point: Questions about monkeypox are increasing as this public health emergency continues to evolve. There are also a lot of myths circulating about monkeypox transmission, contagiousness, etc., especially in comparison to COVID-19.

🌀 Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), [Pharmacist's Letter Canada](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles provide the key facts about who can get monkeypox, how it spreads, and what the rash looks like compared to other lesions (herpes, shingles, etc.). Recommendations are given on preventing monkeypox transmission, along with guidance on vaccination and treatment for patients with possible monkeypox exposure or symptoms.

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Community Pharmacies

Be Ready to Answer Questions About Hearing Aids

⚠ Pain Point: Questions will come up about the proper use and care of hearing aids now that there's an FDA rule allowing some to be sold over the counter.

🌀 Solution: Our [Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles describe hearing aid basics so that pharmacy and prescriber staff will be able to effectively assist patients who use these devices. Advice is given on setting realistic expectations about hearing aids, helping patients get used to their devices, and managing possible side effects, such as itching. Tips are also given about hearing aid cleaning, batteries, water resistance, and more.



Hospital Pharmacies

Assess Phenobarbital Use for Alcohol Withdrawal

⚠ Pain Point: Ongoing benzodiazepine shortages are leading to questions about the best way to treat alcohol withdrawal.

🌀 Solution: Our [Hospital Pharmacist's Letter](#), [Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter](#), and [Prescriber's Letter](#) articles provide recommendations for managing benzodiazepines during the shortage, such as how to calculate dose equivalents and considerations based on pharmacokinetic differences. The role of phenobarbital as a benzodiazepine alternative is reviewed, including its evidence and recommended dosing and monitoring strategies. Our resource, [Management of Inpatient Alcohol Withdrawal](#), includes more insights on thiamine, electrolytes, and other supportive care, as well as other medication options, such as propofol, gabapentin, or ketamine.

Natural Medicines

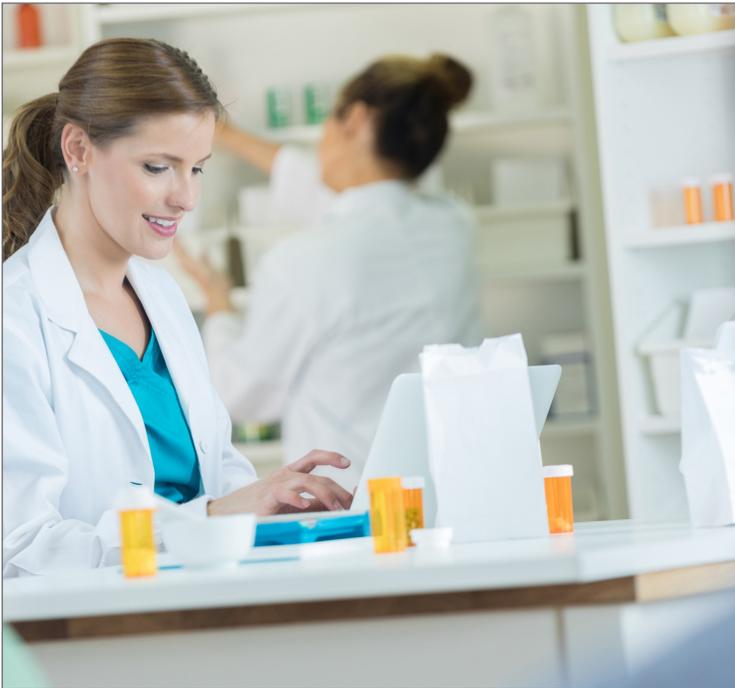
Debunking Activated Charcoal Claims

⚠ Pain Point: Activated charcoal is a mainstay for the treatment of poisoning and overdose in the ED, but there is growing interest in its casual use for various other purposes. Healthcare professionals should be prepared to counsel patients on the use of these supplements.

🔄 Solution: A recent survey found that more than 25% of people with celiac disease had heard that activated charcoal could be helpful for accidental gluten intake, and almost half of those people actually tried it. Similarly, there is growing interest in taking activated charcoal for hangovers or after excessive alcohol use. Our [Natural Medicines](#) article explains why activated charcoal would not be expected to provide benefits for either purpose and would instead introduce the risk of major drug interactions.



Product Spotlight: RxAdvanced: Opioid Stewardship



[RxAdvanced: Opioid Stewardship](#) was designed to provide pharmacists with an evidence-based training program that includes relevant science and industry standards around opioid use for pain management.

This program offers 12 hours of CE from an ACPE-accredited provider.

Upon completion, pharmacists will learn:

- Practical applications of optimal opioid stewardship
- The latest clinical research in opioid management
- Tools for making better pain management decisions
- Essential elements of setting up an effective opioid stewardship program
- How to strengthen the pharmacy's readiness to address complicated care and adverse events
- Effective ways to collaborate with a range of patients to manage pain
- Techniques and guidelines that can reduce opioid risks and improve follow-up care

RxAdvanced: Opioid Stewardship not only teaches the foundational elements of pain management. It also covers how to accurately calculate opioid dose conversions, treat patients who have become tolerant of opioids because of chronic pain, care for patients with opioid use disorder, and so much more.

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

Learn how you can take opioid stewardship to the next level of excellence in your training program.

Get a quote today!

Natural Medicines Resource Hub

Whether they tell you or not, four out of five Americans use dietary supplements. Take advantage of the tools in Natural Medicines to learn about popular ingredients, common uses, potential safety concerns, and interactions. Recent updates include:

- Article: [Probiotics Project: The World of Postbiotics](#)
- Article: [Do Any Natural Medicines Help with Milk Supply?](#)
- New CE: [Commonly Abused Supplements](#)



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

News & Events



October is American Pharmacists Month

Nominate a deserving pharmacist to be entered into a drawing. We are giving away a complimentary RxAdvanced training program (up to \$199 value). We will be accepting nominations until October 21, and will be selecting three winners at the end of October.

To submit your nomination, [click here](#).

Upcoming Training Opportunity

Register For CriticalPoint's Virtual Compounding Training

Build competence in nonhazardous sterile compounding while receiving industry standard recommendations with CriticalPoint's upcoming virtual training Best Practices for Nonhazardous Sterile-to-Sterile Compounding November 1-3, 2022. For more information, learn more and [register here](#).

Webinars for September

On-Demand Webinar: *Practical Strategies to Address the Pharmacy Technician Shortage*

In case you missed it, we recently held a webinar about how to overcome the pharmacy technician shortage. Our speaker, Matthew Kelm, Associate Chief Pharmacy Officer - Oncology Pharmacy Services, addressed the current state of the pharmacy technician shortage and provided practical strategies and approaches that pharmacies can use to overcome it.

[Watch the free recording here](#).



Hot Topic Webinar: *Managing Serotonin Syndrome Interaction Alerts*

This month's Hot Topic on-demand webinar features an expert panel discussion and clinical guidance on **Managing Serotonin Syndrome Interaction Alerts**. Listen as Douglas S. Paauw, MD, MACP, Professor of Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, 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 September



- Hospital Pharmacist's Letter: [Equianalgesic Dosing of Opioids for Pain Management](#)
- Hospital Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Flu Vaccines for 2022-23](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter: [Meds for Opioid Overdose](#)
- Pharmacist's Letter Canada: [Improving Heart Failure Care](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter: [Appropriate Use of Oral Anticoagulants](#)
- Pharmacy Technician's Letter Canada: [Appropriate Opioid Use](#)
- Prescriber's Letter: [Proton Pump Inhibitors: Appropriate Use and Safety Concerns](#)

Continuing Education

Free CE Course for September!

This month, we're offering a free course from our [RxAdvanced: Opioid Stewardship](#) pharmacist training program, **Opioid Conversions and Equianalgesic Dosing**, ACPE Course #: JA0006454-0000-20-2005-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:

- Calculate opioid dosages when switching patients among different opioids and routes
- Assess factors for consideration when performing opioid conversions
- Perform an opioid conversion calculation to an oral regimen in a patient on patient controlled analgesia (PCA) for pain control
- Distinguish between an opioid conversion and the morphine equivalent daily dose (MEDD) calculation

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

