

Solutions to Common Issues...

FDA approved a 2nd booster shot (Pfizer or Moderna) for age 50 and older AT LEAST 4 months after 1st booster.

What we've been doing...

In January 2022 Green Tree Pharmacy dispensed an all-time high of 66,356 Rxs at 125 Facilities across Illinois and Indiana.

Rumor vs. Truth...

Rumor... *An additional dose is the same thing as a booster shot*

Truth... *No, an additional dose is different from a booster shot. Those who are immunocompromised may not develop the same immune response level after vaccination than others. An additional dose is recommended for those to help build the same level of immunity as people who are not immunocompromised.*

Suggestions/Comments...

We'd love to hear how we are doing and are always open to your feedback to improve our services. Please call 1-800-913-8174 or visit our website greentreepharm.com and click "contact us" to submit the request / comment.



Highlights

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News from Our Pharmacy Operations Team

Hot Topics: Evusheld

Evusheld, is a combination of two recombinant monoclonal antibodies administered as two separate consecutive IM injections. The FDA has issued an EUA for the emergency use of Evusheld for **the pre-exposure prophylaxis** of COVID-19 in those 12 years and older, weighing at least 40 kg, in moderately to severely immunocompromised patients not expected to have responded to vaccination, and for patients for whom vaccination is contraindicated. No renal/hepatic dosing is required.

Dose: 600mg (tixagebimab 300mg and cilgavimab 300mg). Evusheld comes packaged in carton with both vials to make a 300mg dose – will need 2 cartons for a 600mg dose. **Remember Evusheld is only good for 4 hours once vial is punctured.

Must wait 2 weeks post COVID-19 vaccination to be eligible.

COVID TREATMENT:

4/5/22: FDA pulled Sotrovimab's authorization due to the United State's high BA.2 infection rates (unlikely to be effective).

Oral antivirals (ie: paxlovid) shows to be remaining effective against BA.2.

NOTE: Paxlovid and Molnupiravir CAN NOT be chewed/crushed. Must swallow whole.

Pharmacy Team Spotlight:

Cheryl Grebner, Pharmacy Technician



Congratulations to Cheryl Grebner, our April Employee of the Quarter. Cheryl has worked as a pharmacy technician at Green Tree Pharmacy since 2006 and is a true asset to our team. She is exceptionally helpful with

new employees. She is always friendly and will stop what she is doing to help others with no complaints. Cheryl is not only a great person, but team player and true example of H to O.

Operations Tips and Tricks

Don't forget our after-hours service. Even when we are closed you always have access to a pharmacist. If calling after hours and you would like to leave a message, just press 1 and then the extension of desired pharmacy personnel. We will get back to you the next business day. If you need immediate assistance press 2 and you will be connected with the after hours pharmacist who will assist you and arrange for a courier service to deliver you order if it cannot wait until the next business day.

Upcoming Events

The 2nd Covid Booster has been approved for individuals over 50 years of age and 4 months since their first booster. Contact Sydney Benson or Jamie Harrison if you would like schedule a clinic for your facility.

Clinical Acorns and Guidelines

Medication Safety Facts...

Tips to improve insulin safety

Avoid writing orders with trailing zeros (correct: 10 units, not 10.0 units).

Spell out the word "units" instead of abbreviating.

Improperly mixing suspensions (Humulin N, Humalog Mix 75/25, Novolin N, Novolin NPH) can lead to over or under dosing. To avoid: gently roll (not shake) at least 10x before use.

If using an insulin pen, prime to expel air bubbles. Leave in skin for 5 – 10 seconds to deliver full dose.

Check expiration dates of pens and refer to your GTP insulin expiration dates document on specific insulin products. Keep insulin in the fridge until needed, writing the date removed from refrigerator on the product.

Regulatory Update/ Review

A 3 week (Pfizer) or 4 week (Moderna) interval between the 1st and 2nd dose continues to be the recommended interval for elderly.

The small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, might be reduced and peak antibody response and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with a longer interval, up to 8 weeks between doses.

Clinical News Update

CDC recommends routine administration of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15 or PCV20) for all adults 65 years or older who have never received any pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) or whose previous vaccination history is unknown.

- If PCV15 is used, this should be followed by a dose of PSV23 one year later (this is to broaden coverage).
- If PCV20 is used, a dose of PSV23 is NOT indicated.

Guidelines do not prefer one strategy over another. Download the PneumoRecs app for help on selecting the recommended pneumococcal vaccine.



May is National Mental Health Month

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major effect on our lives. Many of us have faced challenges that can be stressful. Per the World Health Organization (WHO), in the first year of the pandemic, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25%.

Healthy ways to cope with stress:

- Take care of your body – including deep breaths, eating healthy well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, avoiding excessive alcohol, routine preventive measures
- Make time to unwind
- Connect with others

Share resources to help find treatment options...such as calling 800-662-HELP or using the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

Options to help cope include psychotherapy (first line) and medication.



Clinical Focus: Depression in Elderly

Depression in the older adults is often underrecognized and often mislabeled as aging, grief, dementia, etc. Common symptoms of depression include feeling sad, anxious, "empty," feeling of hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness, loss of interest, fatigue, difficulty concentrating/ making decisions, eating more/ less, thoughts of death/suicide. Suggest psychotherapy first, & encourage socialization and exercise.

If an antidepressant is needed, choices can be tailored on comorbidities, side effects, interactions, and the Beers Criteria.

SSRIs (sertraline, etc), have best evidence in older adults with depression.

Look for one antidepressant to serve two purposes when able. Duloxetine or Venlafaxine can help in those who have neuropathic pain. Mirtazapine can help in those with insomnia or who need help promoting weight gain.

Bupropion can be considered in those with fatigue, but lean away from it in anxiety, since it's more activating.

Older patients are more likely to develop hyponatremia with an SSRI, SNRI, or mirtazapine. Careful monitoring of sodium especially with heart failure or thiazides.

Antidepressants are linked to fall risk.. and SSRIs/SNRIs/TCAs are on the Beers List for patients with a history of falls or fractures. Paroxetine & TCAs (amitriptyline) have strong anticholinergic properties & can cause dizziness.

Expect full benefit of antidepressants at 12 weeks after initiation.



Be Prepared: Text. Save. Share.

Text **POISON** to **797979** & save Poison Control vCard to your phone.