

BRANCHING OUT

OCTOBER 2021

ISSUE 04

Quarterly Newsletter

Solutions to Common Issues...

Green Tree Pharmacy has COVID-19 Boosters in stock. We have Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine in stock for your eligible residents..

Didn't order enough flu vaccines for this year? We have extra doses on hand and have regular and high-dose available.

Contact Sydney Benson at sbenson @heritageofcare.com

What we've been doing...

Our Pharmacists and Certified Technicians have distributed and administered over 1,500 Covid Booster Vaccines and almost 10,000 Flu vaccines in the month of October.

Green Tree Pharmacy hosted more than 40 vaccine clinics for residents at the facilities we serve in the last 30 days.

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. Type in greentreepharm.com and click "contact us" to submit the request or comment.



Highlights

Hot Topics: COVID-19 Boosters p1
Pharmacy Team Spotlight p1
Operations Tips and Tricks p1
Semglee biosimilar p2
Regulatory Update / Review p2
Clinical Focus: REGEN COV p2

News from Our Pharmacy Operations Team

Hot Topics:

COVID-19 vaccinations: Additional dose vs booster... What's the difference?

Additional Dose: (mRNA=Pfizer/Moderna)

- A 3rd dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (transplant patients, active cancer, those on high-level immunosuppressants, etc).
- Given at least 28 days after the second dose.
- This is an "additional dose" not a "booster" due to these patients likely having a lower immune response.

Booster:

- Eligible patients can get a booster 6 months after the 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna or 2 months after J&J
- Eligibility criteria: Pfizer/Moderna: 65
 years and older, LTC residents and health
 care workers 18 years and older, those
 with underlying medical conditions
 (pregnancy, diabetes, CKD, COPD, etc).
 J&J: general population 18yrs and older.

Side effects of getting a 3rd dose/booster appear similar to those experienced with the last dose. Continue to report side effects using "v-safe."

Pharmacy Team Spotlight: Monte Fisher, Courier Driver



Monte joined our team in June of 2019. He is a courier driver and drives our afternoon route which includes deliveries for Central Office. His dedication to H to O and

fellow colleagues snows through his consistent smiles and courteous attitude. Monte's "Happy to Oblige" attitude is appreciated by all of us at Green Tree Pharmacy.

Operations Tips and Tricks

Check out our updated Beyond Use Date chart. Use this chart to determine when to discard various medications once they are removed from their original packaging. These beyond use dates determined by the manufacturer are often not readily apparent on the packaging and frequently differ from the manufacturer's expiration date. Laminated copies were distributed to the facilities to post in their medrooms or make copies. Remember to place the date opened on these products and discard once the beyond use date has surpassed.

Upcoming Events

Green Tree Pharmacy is now distributing flu/Covid vaccines. We are scheduling clinics to assist with flu and covid booster vaccinations.

Medication Safety Facts...

Corticosteroids for COVID-19 seem to decrease mortality in COVID-19 patients requiring supplemental oxygen, especially in those who require ventilation, in the hospital setting.

Potential adverse effects of corticosteroids include hyperglycemia, agitation, confusion, and infection risk.

Rumor vs Truth

Rumor...

Resident's cannot get another vaccine with their covid vaccine

Truth...

You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. You no longer need to wait 14 days between vaccinations. Co-administration isn't expected to increase side effects...or impact immune response.

Regulatory Update/Review

According to F759 and section 483.45 (f) of the state operations manual, a facility must maintain medication error rates below 5% and all residents should be free of significant medication errors.

Your Green Tree Consultant Pharmacist can observe your facility med-pass and review opportunities to avoid common errors and reduce the likelihood of being tagged during the survey process.

Clinical Acorns and Guidelines

American Pharmacists Month



Clinical News Update

October is American Pharmacists Month.

Your Green Tree pharmacists have specialized knowledge in geriatric pharmacotherapy, and reduce medication related problems and improve therapeutic outcomes. The entire medication regimen, including those taken "prn" are carefully reviewed to deteremine whether the product is necessary, dosed correctly, safe, and affordable.

Semglee

FDA approved the first interchangeable Biosimilar insulin, Semglee on July 28th, 2021.

Biosimilars are not generics. Biologics are made from living organisms and contain larger, more complex molecules than most traditional drugs.

Biosimilars have to show similar safety, purity, and potency as the reference biologic. But an "interchangeable" biosimilar is also shown to give the same CLINICAL result.

Semglee is the first biosimilar to have this kind of evidence. It provides similar A1c lowering at 6 months compared to Lantus, with a similar rate of hypoglycemia.

An interchangeable biosimilar CAN be automatically substituted without a new rx, like a generic.

Semglee is cost effective, costing about \$100/vial or \$150/box of 5 pens. Compare this to Lantus which is about \$240/vial or \$360/box of 5 pens.





Clinical Focus: REGEN-COV

REGEN-COV (casirivimab/imdevimab), is a monoclonal antibody used to treat COVID-19 and recently was approved for prophylaxis of COVID-19 for high risk-immunocompromised residents exposed to the virus.

REGEN-COV binds to SARS-CoV-2 and prevents it from binding to human receptors and infecting cells.

Dosing Guidelines:

- Given as four simultaneous 2.5 mL subcutaneous injections, in 4 separate quadrants in one of the following locations: upper back of arm, thigh, or abdomen (avoiding 2 inch region around navel)
- Following the initial prophylactic dose, successive doses with casirivimab 300mg and imdevimab 300mg once every 4 weeks for the duration of ongoing exposure are recommended.
- Also can be given IV infusion 600mg casirivimab/600mg imdevimab in 50 mL NS IV infusion given over ≤ 180 mL/hour.
- Monitor patients for 1 hour afterward for any infusion related reactions or hypersensitivity. Common side effects: nausea, infusion site reactions, and headache

Residents will still need to isolate after receiving REGEN-COV. It is not a cure and does not prevent the spread of infection. Patients must wait 90 days after monoclonal antibodies are given before they are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

