

PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
PHARMACEUTICAL CARE

Vol. V, Issue 2

MARCH/APRIL 2008

Special Points of Interest:

- *P&T Update*
- *Policy and Procedure / Guideline*
- *Patient Safety*
- *Clinical Safety / PI Change news*

P&T UPDATE

Formulary Addition/Deletion

Formulary addition of Darunavir, Maraviroc, Etravirine was recommended by the subcommittee after a detailed antiretroviral medication formulary review and input from infectious disease department. The subcommittee also recommended deletion of Delvirdine and Zalcitabine.-approved

Paromomycin (Humatin®)- Deletion

No Purchase in last 36months, usage only in 1 patient in 02/07. Discontinued by one of the manufacturers (King pharmaceutical). Members voted to delete the drug from the formulary

Edrophonium (Enlon®)- Deletion

Edrophonium is manufacturer discontinued. Members voted to delete the drug from the formulary

2008-09 MEDICATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET

2008-09 medication management booklet is compiled to increase awareness among other disciplines about pharmacy functions and medication management standards UH follows to provide optimal patient care, in compliance with state and federal regulations. This booklet will be distributed to the nursing, medical and pharmacy staff.



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Clinical safety/PI change news

IV medications on step down units

P&T Members voted to implement a uniform policy on IV medications across all step down units. For example, a cardiac medication which was allowed as per the older policy only on telemetry step down will now be allowed on all other step downs as RNs rotate through different units. This will facilitate decompressing critical care beds utilization and ensure safe administration of high risk IV medications with appropriate nursing:patient ratio

Policy on medications with black box warnings

This policy ensures that the medication orders with black box warnings are processed properly by medical, nursing and pharmacy staff to ensure patient safety. Under this policy, the medical and nursing staff are notified through an alert on Electronic MAR that the medication ordered carries a black box warning.

Pharmacists are notified of the black box warning status of the medication under administration. Instructions on the pharmacy auto-composer screen when they profile the medication order in EpicRx. The drug list with black box warnings will be reviewed and updated periodically by pharmacy department.

Warming of IV solutions, contrast media and irrigation solutions P&P

This new policy provides guidelines for warming of IV solution, contrast media and irrigation solution throughout UH owned service areas.

FDA Clinical/Medwatch/Patient Safety Alerts/ Black Box Warnings

CDC updates immunization schedule for 2008

CDC released the updated immunization schedule for ages up to 18 years. Pharmacy department forwarded the updated immunization schedule to pediatric units, pediatric ID chair, and neonatology chair for distribution among their staff.

Suicidality and antiepileptic drugs

FDA analyzed reports of suicidal behavior or ideation from placebo controlled clinical studies of 11 antiepileptic drugs and found that these drugs had twice the risk of suicidal behavior (0.43%) or ideation compared to placebo (0.22%). This increased risk was observed as early as one week after starting the drugs and continued through 24 weeks. The drugs included in the analysis were carbamazepine, felbamate, gabapentin, lamotrigine, levetiracetam, pregabalin, tiagabine, topiramate, valproate, zonisamide. FDA is anticipating that increased risk of suicidality will be applied broadly to the whole antiepileptic class of drugs.



Tiotropium (Spiriva®) and formoterol (Foradil®) inhalation powder capsules

FDA and AAPCC have received many reports of patients swallowing Foradil® and Spiriva® capsules instead of placing the capsules in the inhalational devices. FDA issued advisory to correctly use these medications in the handihaler and aerolizer provided and not swallow these medications.

Ostelamivir(Tamiflu®) associated with neuropsychiatric problems

There have been postmarketing reports of delirium and abnormal behavior leading to injury in patients with influenza who were receiving Tamiflu®. Therefore the Precautions section of the Tamiflu® package insert has been modified by the manufacturer to include neuropsychiatric events associated with the drug.

Medication guide to be dispensed with Avandia®

The FDA regulation 21CFR208 now requires a medication guide to be provided with each prescription of Avandia® (rosiglitazone maleate) to the patients who are started on this medication. Avandia® was associated with increased rates of ischemic cardiovascular events including heart attack or heart related adverse events in an analysis of clinical trials.

Simvastatin-Ezetimibe (Vytorin®)

ENHANCE trial result demonstrated no difference between Vytorin® and simvastatin on atherosclerotic plaque despite greater lowering of LDL in heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia patients. ACC recommends ezetimibe remain reasonable option when high dose statins have not reached LDL goal

Abacavir and didanosine early communication

FDA release on current analysis on abacavir and didanosine increase risk of heart attack. The risk did not increase over time, reversible after therapy stopped.

Becaplermin (Regranex®) communication about ongoing safety review

FDA investigates increase risk of cancer in patients with diabetic who uses becaplermin. Not enough information whether the therapy increase new cancer development. Potential risk should weigh against the benefit

Montelukast (Singulair®) early communication

Behavior/mood changes, suicidality and suicide association with montelukast use are being investigated

Darunavir (Prezista®) additional warning on hepatotoxicity

Drug induced hepatitis has been reported in 0.5% of patients receiving darunavir. Some fatalities reported, generally occurred in advanced HIV-1 disease with co-morbidities (Hepatitis B or C co-infection and/or developing immune reconstitution syndrome.