Vermont Pharmacist Association
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Building One Voice for Pharmacy!

May 2014

Volume 4 Issue 5

Marci Wood, Editor

Vermont News

April 26th is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The next National prescription drug take-back day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 26th**. Collection sites are posted online for your reference.

Spring Conference Information

The VPA Spring CE Conference will be held on **Sunday, April 27** from 7 AM to 3 PM at the Holiday Inn on Route 7 in Rutland. View or download the brochure **here**. Registration and payment is available through the website using PayPal, or you can send in your registration and payment to VPA, P. O. Box 818, Milton, VT 05468.

Upcoming Board of Pharmacy Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Pharmacy is scheduled for **May 28th** at 9 AM. The meeting will be held on the 3rd floor of the City Center, 89 Main Street in Montpelier.

VPA Media Opportunity

Please see below regarding a request from a reporter for USA Today seeking real world examples of the dangers of counterfeit drugs. Please contact the reporter directly if you wish to share your experiences.

Deadline Apr 17, 2014 08:00 PM AFT(Asia/Kabul)

Organization URL: http://www.usatoday.com

I'm looking for actual examples of counterfeit drugs sold online that have harmed. Could be from a doctor or pharmacist whose patient bought online, or the patient him or herself. I have many experts talking about this problem (no need for more) but am now looking for someone with actual first or close second-hand experience. Contact: Elizabeth Weise, eweise@usatoday.com

National Pharmacy News

Study Finds Many Prescriptions Remain Unfilled

A prospective cohort study published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and conducted in Quebec, found that the 15,961 study participants did not fill approximately 33% of their prescriptions. The study found that the likelihood of a prescription being filled depended partially on what it was for, and some of the unfilled prescriptions were for treatment of chronic diseases. Prescriptions for urinary tract infections were the most likely prescriptions to be filled. Prescriptions for headache and coronary artery disease were filled approximately 50% of the time, and only 37% of antidepressant prescriptions were filled. Unsurprisingly, more expensive drugs and patients with higher co-payments were less likely to have prescriptions filled. Prescriptions were filled more often by elderly patients and patients that saw a doctor frequently.

Evzio Approved to Treat Opioid Overdose

The FDA has announced the approval of the hand-held auto-injector Evzio (naloxone, Kaleo), indicated for emergency use in the treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. Evzio is the first product approved for naloxone administration outside of a healthcare setting, making the drug easier to use in the case of an overdose. Approval was based on a study of 30 patients, which showed a single injection of Evzio administered the same amount of naloxone as a dose with a standard syringe. Evzio can provide intramuscular or subcutaneous injections of the drug, and provides verbal instructions on drug delivery once turned on. Evzio is expected to be available by prescription this summer, however the FDA specified that its use is not meant to be a substitute for immediate medical treatment.

source: http://cdn.medgadget.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Evzio.jpg

New Type 2 Diabetes Medication Approved

Tanzeum (albiglutide, GlaxoSmithKline) has received FDA approval to improve glycemic control in adult patients with type 2 diabetes, along with diet and exercise. The GLP-1 receptor agonist can be used with a patient's current treatment regimen or alone to control blood sugar levels. Studies for use of Tanzeum alone as well as in combination with treatments like metformin, glimepiride, pioglitazone, and insulin were conducted, with patients treated with Tanzeum showing improved HbA1c levels. The FDA has requested post-marketing studies be conducted to assess pediatric safety, efficacy, and dosing, and use in patients with cardiovascular disease.

Patent Litigation Over Generic Celebrex Settled

A settlement deal between Pfizer and the generic drug manufacturer Teva will allow Teva to launch a generic version of Celebrex (celexocib) in the US by this December. Teva has received tentative FDA-approval for all strengths of the drug, and plans to manufacture at least the 100 mg, 200 mg, and 400 mg capsules. The basic patent on Celebrex is set to expire on May 30th, and last month a reissued patent that would have extended coverage through December for treatment of osteoarthritis and other approved conditions was invalidated in a district court. Actavis and Mylan have both received tentative FDA approval to market generic versions of Celebrex, with both companies stating plans to launch their products in May. US sales of Celebrex totaled $2.9 billion in 2013, and Pfizer stated it will continue to defend its patent and pursue "all appropriate remedies for infringement".

Please note our mailing address:

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