

**April 2018**

**Volume IX, Issue II**

**Madeline Ciccone, Editor**

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## **Vermont Pharmacy News**

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*Photo by: Jim Marmar*

### **VPA Spring Meeting and Diabetes CE**

Thanks to all who were in attendance at the VPA Spring Meeting and CE event at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences!

### **Congratulations to the 2018- 2019 officers of the VPA Student Chapter!**

President: Melina Huynh

Vice President: Bao Ly

Secretary/Treasurer: Jasmine Nguyen



*Photo by: Melina Huynh*

### **Beers With Peers Event**

Hosted by The Vermont Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Friday, May 25th, 2018 5:30-8:00pm

Drop-In Brewing Company

610 US-7

Middlebury, VT

## New England Pharmacists Annual Convention

The New England Pharmacists Annual Convention will be held September 13th and 14th, 2018 at Foxwoods Casino in Mashantucket, CT. The Convention invites pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students throughout the Northeast.



*Photo: <https://www.nepharmacists.org/>*

## Continuing Education Requirement for License Renewal

Effective with the passage in 2016 of Vermont Act 173, all Office of Professional Regulation dispensing and prescribing professions, (as listed above), with a registration number from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who have a pending application for a DEA number, or who dispense controlled substances, shall complete at least two hours of continuing education for each full licensing period beginning on or after June 8, 2016 on the topics of:

1. the abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate storage and disposal of controlled substances;
  2. the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System;  
risk assessment for abuse or addiction;
  3. pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for managing pain;
  4. medication tapering and cessation of the use of controlled substances; and,
- relevant State and federal laws and regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substance.

Documentation of these completed continuing education hours must be uploaded to the online licensing platform during your renewal. This is required with your first full renewal period beginning after the June 8, 2016, effective date of Act 173. Please refer to your current license expiration date(s) to plan for this requirement.

For further information on this requirement, refer to Vermont 2016 ACT 173 (S.243), an act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont, Section 9 Continuing Education.

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## **Vermont Board of Pharmacy Meeting**

**April 25th, 9:00am to 3:00pm**

89 Main St., Montpelier, VT  
Large Conference Room A

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### **Mark Your Calendar!**

*VPA Fall Meeting: Sunday, September 23, 2018; Location TBD*

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## **National Pharmacy News**

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### **TRIBUTE Trial: Extrafine Inhaled Triple Therapy Versus Dual Bronchodilator Therapy in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**

The TRIBUTE study sought to compare a single-inhaler triple combination of inhaled corticosteroid, long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), and long-acting beta-2-agonist (LABA) versus a single-inhaler dual combination of LAMA and LABA. The drugs chosen were beclometasone dipropionate, formoterol fumarate and glycopyrronium (BDP/FF/G) against indacaterol plus glycopyrronium (IND/GLY). The goal of the trial was to test the rate of moderate-to-severe COPD exacerbations over 52 weeks of treatment. A randomized, parallel-group, double-blind, double-dummy study was performed at 187 sites across 17 countries. Patients were included if they had symptomatic COPD, severe or very severe airflow limitation, at least one previous moderate or severe exacerbation in the past year, and were receiving

inhaled maintenance therapy.

1532 patients were randomly assigned via an interactive response technology system, in a 1:1 fashion, to receive 52 weeks of treatment with two inhalations of BDP/FF/G twice a day or one inhalation of IND/GLY per day. Moderate-to-severe exacerbation rates were 0.50 per patient per year for BDP/FF/G and 0.59 per patient per year for IND/GLY, giving a rate ratio of 0.848 ( $p=0.043$ ) in favor of the triple combination. Adverse events were reported in 64% of patients in the triple combination group and 67% in the dual combination group. One treatment-related serious adverse event was reported in each group: dysuria in the BDP/FF/G group and atrial fibrillation in the IND/GLY group. In patients with symptomatic COPD, severe or very severe airflow limitation, and an exacerbation history despite maintenance therapy, extrafine BDP/FF/G significantly reduced the rate of moderate-to-severe COPD exacerbations compared with IND/GLY use.

*Read more*

## **University of Illinois at Chicago Study Challenges Tamiflu, Child Suicide Risk**

**By Andrew Cartmell**

Since 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug administration has required that prescriptions for Tamiflu (oseltamivir) include a warning to immediately report signs or symptoms of neuropsychiatric events such as abnormal behavior, delirium, or hallucinations. This was due to case reports from the early 2000's that seemed to indicate the potential for adverse psychiatric events in children prescribed the drug. In a new study, lead author Dr. James Antoon at the University of Illinois at Chicago brings this requirement into question. The case-crossover study looked at over 20,000 young people, aged 18 or younger, comparing the rate of suicide of those treated with oseltamivir to those that had not. The study did not find a significant increased risk between suicide-related events and the use of the anti-viral drug.

*Read more*

## **New Sterile Product Compounding Certification Available for Pharmacy Technicians**

**By Andrew Cartmell**

The February edition of Pharmacy Today reported the launch of a new certification program for pharmacy technicians. The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

(PTCB) certification would be for technicians involved in the compounding of sterile products. It is called the Certified Compounded Sterile Products Technician (CSPT) and the intent is for it to reflect the roles and responsibilities many technicians currently occupy in the preparation of sterile products as well as possibly provide new career pathways and options. To qualify to take the exam, a tech would either have to have taken a PTCB recognized program and worked full time, compounding sterile products for at least a year, or they would have to have worked full-time for five years making sterile products. They would also need a form from their supervisor attesting to their competence. An additional five credit hours of continuous education per year, along with annual supervisor's attestation would also be required.

*[Read more](#)*

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## Contact Information:

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