



The Renal Pharmacist

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CONFERENCE CALL!

Have you always wondered why there is no Renal Pharmacist's conference????

Well now there is !!!!!

ANNOUNCING the first Renal Pharmacist's Conference brought to you by your Renal Pharmacist's Network in partnership with CANNT (Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists)

This event will take place Thursday November 14th through Sunday November 17th, at the fabulous Four Season's Hotel in exciting Toronto. This years theme is "Wit & Whimsy, Integral components to Wellness", with "The Fun Nun" as the keynote speaker. Topics are sure to scintillate and will range from Advanced renal insufficiency to Dialysis and Transplantation.

The RPN speakers will have brilliant presentations on such diverse topics as Immunosuppression, Smoking Cessation, Vancomycin monitoring, Renal Bone Disease, Dialyzability of Drugs, and that very current topic of Eprex Resistance.

So folks, request your conference time now, and above all put your thinking caps on for the poster presentations.

During this time of fiscal restraint, Ortho-Biotec has kindly offered to fund a portion of the registration fee for RPN members. Stay tuned for further details!

Roza Berkowitz

View from the Chair...

What a busy Winter! It is almost over for us in balmy Ontario, and I for one, am happy to be finished with the cold whether. The winter always brings people together in close quarters, and I'm not talking about fireside chats. I, for one, have had my share of weekend conferences this past winter. If you have attended any weekend retreats, I hope that you were able to apply some of the knowledge to daily practice. If you have, why not jot it down, and share it with the rest of us? It could be an article, a paragraph, or even a sentence on some epiphany you have had as a result of a conference. Please e-mail your contributions to Reshma Rathod.

There are a few new conferences coming up, so please log on to the RPN website and click on "up-coming conferences" for the latest update! I'm sure I will see you at one of them!

If you have an upcoming meeting you are attending or are organizing, and want to let other renal pharmacists know about it, please e-mail your conference information to Carmen Ma so she can add it to our website.

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CHECK OUT THE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR CANNT 2002!

Contained in this issue.....

HELP! We Need a Pharmacy Technician in our Program

The Successful Proposal and Recruitment Plan

Submitted by Lisa Sever, York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill, ON

Are you a Nephrology pharmacist working solo in a dialysis program with limited technical support? From what I have been hearing from fellow renal pharmacists, you are not alone.

At the York Region Dialysis Program, with a growing patient workload, the 1.6 FTE Nephrology Pharmacists (July 2000) were run off their feet trying to keep up. The office was a disaster, patient profiles were everywhere, we were being called to dispense Eprex, and then discharge an inpatient, then follow-up with an outpatient etc. Sound familiar? Monthly billing, statistics and orders were not getting done in a timely manner. Sooo.....

We submitted to our Director (an RN), a Proposal to Create a new position: A Nephrology Pharmacy Technician. (which went as follows):

Pharmacy Technicians are trained to help minimize the dispensing and technical aspects related to medication management for pharmacists. This in effect allows the pharmacist to focus more of their time on direct patient-focused activities.

Several aspects of the Nephrology Pharmacist's workload could easily be delegated to a Pharmacy Technician.

1. Eprex® Dispensing to outpatients
2. Stocking hemodialysis units, Peritoneal Dialysis and Nephrology Clinic.
3. Stat doses (clarified with pharmacist)
4. Preparation of 2cc syringes of TPA (prepared twice monthly currently)
5. Eprex billing monthly
6. Unit billing monthly
7. WLM statistics monthly
8. Medication Order entry for Hemodialysis outpatients
9. Helping the pharmacist with monthly lab reviews
10. Preparing medication schedules using the Work Template (reviewed by Pharmacist) assisting with medication wallet cards
11. Coordinating the pharmacist's twice yearly medication reviews for outpatients on HD or PD
12. Dispensing Peritonitis treatment Rx's
13. Doing Returned Doses on the inpatient Nephrology Ward
14. Section 8 initiation and follow up
15. Self-medication setup for inpatients as needed, weekend passes as needed
16. Projects as identified

Unit dose bin filling for the technician would be incorporated into the daily functions as well. We estimate that to perform the above duties, a 1.0 FTE would be required. The ideal candidate would need to have extensive working knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel as well as hospital pharmacy experience.

Well, we did receive approval and have had the benefit of having a 1.0 FTE Nephrology Pharmacy Technician for 14 months now (and we would be lost without her). I encourage all programs to take the initiative to create this position within your program so you can pursue more clinical initiatives. Feel free to use information in this proposal to draft yours. Good Luck!

View From The Chair Cont..

Mark your calendars for the 2002 CANNT conference in Toronto, November 14-17, 2002. Themed "Wit and Whimsy," it will be a fabulous opportunity for the Renal Pharmacist to shine!

We are looking for YOUR posters for this momentous occasion – the first time the RPN are participating in such an event! The "call for abstracts" information is contained within the newsletter, as well as on the Website. We will be providing details on funding for conference registration soon!

Many thanks to all who took the time to answer the on-line Co-Zint survey. We will be conducting RPN driven surveys/polls in the future. We thought quick, on-line, simple surveys would work well. Keep an eye on the RPN website for the latest opinion poll on current issues.

Check out our newest look – the Logo! We modified the winning entry (from a recent educational meeting contest) and hope you like the outcome! Look for it on upcoming correspondence.

Otherwise, I have been chatting with some of you lately, and know we are all as busy as ever. By the time you read this, I will be vacationing in Europe with my husband (sans kids). I need this rejuvenation time, and hope you too can plan for some well deserved rest in the near future!

Looking forward to relaxing, in this view from the chair!

Brenda

Iron Alternatives

Submitted by Anna Babej, Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga Ontario

Oral Iron Preparation	Tablet / Capsule Size (mg/tablet)	Elemental Iron (mg/tablet)	Average Cost (\$/100 mg elemental)	Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) coverage
Ferrous Fumarate capsule (Palafer®)-SmithKline Beecham	300 mg	100 mg	0.33	✓
Ferrous Fumarate Tablet	200 mg	66 mg	0.07	✓
Ferrous Fumarate Liquid (Palafer®)-SmithKline Beecham	300 mg/5 mL	100 mg/5 mL	0.60	✓
Ferrous Gluconate tablet	300 mg	34 mg	0.10	✓
Ferrous Sulfate Tablet	300 mg	60 mg	0.07	
Ferrous Sulfate Syrup (Fer-in-Sol®, Ferodan®)	150 mg/5 mL	30 mg	1.20	
Ferrous Sulfate Drops (Fer-in-Sol®, Ferodan®)	75 mg/mL	15 mg	2.32	✓
Polysaccharide-iron complex capsule (Niferex®)-	150 mg	150 mg	0.19	

Injectable Iron Preparation	Strength	Format	Supplied	Cost per 100 mg
Iron Dextran (Infufer ®) IV/IM – Sabex	50 mg/mL	Vial	2 ml vial 10 vials/box	\$27
Iron Dextran (DexIron®) IV/IM – Genpharm	50 mg/mL	Vial	1 and 2 ml vials 10 vials/box	\$30
Iron Sucrose (Venofer®) IV – Genpharm	20 mg/mL	Vial	5 ml vial 10 vials/box	\$50
Iron Gluconate (Ferrlecit®) IV	12.5 mg/mL	Vial	10 ml vial	N/A
Iron Sorbitol-Citric Acid Complex (Jectofer®) IM – AstraZeneca *Discontinued Jan 2002*	50 mg/mL	Ampoule	2 ml amp 10 amps/box	\$3 ODB

January 2002

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Visit www.renalpharmacist.net for a more comprehensive list and a link to the abstracts/ R.R

Harder C et al. **A comparison of Two Dosage Regimens of Intravenous Vancomycin in Hemodialysis Patients.** J Informed Pharm 2002;8:405

Casadevall N. et al. **Pure red-cell aplasia and antierythropoietin antibodies in patients treated with recombinant erythropoietin.** NEJM 2002; 14; 346(7): 469-475.

Wazny LD, Brackbill ML. **Lepirudin dose recommendations for treatment of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia in patients undergoing intermittent hemodialysis.** CJHP Feb 2002;55(1): 39-45.

Locatelli F et.al. **Survival and Development of Cardiovascular Disease by Modality of Treatment in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease.** J Am Soc Nephrol 2001; 12:2411-2417

Perez-Fontan M et.al. **Mupirocin resistance after long-term use for Staphylococcus aureus colonization in patients undergoing chronic peritoneal dialysis.** Am J Kidney Dis 2002 Feb; 39(2): 337-41.

Websites of Interest

www.hdcn.com

This is an official educational program of the RPA and ASN. HDCN stands for Hypertension, Dialysis and Clinical Nephrology. This website is updated weekly and features weekly CME lectures, daily news containing articles of interest, links to nephrology journals, practice guidelines, clinical trials, full text articles. It also offers the ability to search using google, pubmed and links to UptoDate. While some features on this site are available free of charge, most are only available to registered users at a subscription cost of \$75 US for twelve months.

www.nephrotogo.com

A comprehensive handbook of Nephrology for the Palm OS computing platform. Free download available. Check it out!

MEMBER PROFILE

Roza Berkowitz

Roza is a well-known renal pharmacist with a vast amount of experience in Pharmacy practice. I will highlight a few key points.

Roza completed her pharmacy degree at the University of Toronto in 1965. She also has a Master of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. She has worked as a staff pharmacist at Credit Valley Hospital since 1985 to present. Her clinical areas of interest were NICU, Labour & Delivery and Maternity from 1985 to 1996. She started her career in Nephrology in 1996 and continues to pursue it to date. She is presently an executive member of the RPN, as the Education co-ordinator.

In addition to pharmacy, Roza has an avid interest in Journalism and Gemology. After completing courses in Radio and Television Arts and Journalism at Ryerson (1966-7), she pursued a career abroad as a photojournalist. She is a fellow with the Gemological Association of Great Britain since 1974 and has taught Gemology at George Brown College and Central Technical School.

Roza, we thank you for your wisdom and expertise.
R.R

PRODUCT NEWS

RENAGEL

Now has section 8 status with ODB. Please note that the new 400mg and 800mg strengths have been approved for section 8 status.

ONE-ALPHA

The packaging for this has been changed and it is now only available as blister packs. Unfortunately this information has not been widely distributed to retail pharmacies. If you get a call from a drug store requesting that One-Alpha be changed to Rocaltrol because One Alpha is no longer available, please ask the pharmacist to check with the vendor to see what the ordering code is for the blister packs.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

CSHP Annual General Meeting
August 10-12,2002
Vancouver, British Columbia
For further information contact:
CSHP at (613) 736-9733

Prevention in Renal Disease: An international conference presented by the Division of Nephrology, University of Toronto.
September 27-28,2002
Toronto, Ontario
For further information contact: (416) 504-4500
Email: prdc@congrescan.com

CANNT (Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists)
November 14-17, 2002
Toronto, Ontario
Please note that RPN members are asked for poster abstracts only for this year.
For further information contact: Brenda Bruinooge at (905) 780-4278 or Roza Berkowitz at (905) 813-1614 ext 6352
Email: bbruinooge@yorkcentral.on.ca or rberkowitz@cvh.on.ca

Classifieds

Wanted

RPN e-mail group list – If you have never received an e-mail from Lisa Sever, then you are not on the RPN e-mail list. Please e-mail me your address if you wish to be included. The group e-mail is used for surveys, drug information questions, product news, newsletter submissions (please I beg you) etc. Drop an e-mail to l.sever@aci.on.ca

Notice – Address / Info Changes

Please forward any address / phone number changes to the Secretary / Treasurer, Andrea Fox. Her e-mail is foxa@smh.toronto.on.ca We are constantly updating our membership mailing list. Thank you.

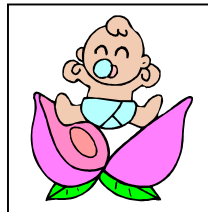
CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to recognize and congratulate some members of our group who have won CSHP awards in February 2002.

Grace Leung, Scarborough General for her Pilot Study of a Possible Drug Interaction between Gingko Biloba and Warfarin.

Kathy Denesyk, London Health Sciences Centre for her Medication Teaching Video Series for Organ Transplant Recipients.

Joanne Jung, British Columbia who co-authored the paper A Comparison of Two Dosage Regimens of Intravenous Vancomycin in Hemodialysis Patients.



BABY BOOM

Karen Cameron had a baby boy, Thomas Cameron Stumpo, born on December 13/2001, a healthy 7 lbs.

Dan Martinusen welcomed a baby boy, Kevin Norman on November 6,2001.

RPN extends their congratulations to you and your families. To all of those who contributed (especially the new contributors!!) and to Ortho Biotech for printing and distributing the newsletter!

A great big Thank You!

To all of those who contributed (especially the new contributors!!) and to ORTHO BIOTECH for printing and distributing the newsletter.

Deadline for submissions for next Newsletter is August 15 2002 e-mail or call Reshma Rathod, Communications Co-ordinator, using the contact information on the front of this Newsletter.