



# SUPERVALU Pharmacies Intern Express

March 31, 2010

## COMPANY NEWS

### 2009 Partners in Excellence Award

HealthPartners, a leading national private insurance provider with a top ranking in Minnesota, presented **CUB Pharmacy** with a 2009 Partners in Excellence Award for Managing High Risk Medications. The annual award honors medical groups and pharmacies that achieve either excellent or superior performance on specific quality, satisfaction and cost effectiveness targets. CUB Pharmacy gained national distinction for Pharmacy team efforts to dispense the most appropriate drugs to elderly patients. "The CUB team did a great job in using medication therapy to make sure our patients received the best outcomes possible," said Matt Cross, regional manager, Managed Care - Midwest. "We are proud of this recognition and the steps CUB pharmacists took to further distinguish our company from our competitors."

The Partners in Excellence Program, formerly known as the Outcomes Recognition Program, offers awards in three categories: Generic Dispensing, Monitoring of Persistent Medications, and Managing High Risk Medications in the Elderly. CUB Pharmacy was one of 10 organizations to receive an award in its category.

### UPITT Alumni Newsletter Features Residency Director

Suzanne Feeney laughs when she recalls her high school yearbook from Berwick, Pennsylvania. In it, she said she planned to become a pharmacist, a career to which she had aspired since working an after-school job at a small independent pharmacy in her hometown.

While other kids' aspirations might have fluctuated after graduation, Feeney's remained constant. After earning her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004, she went right into community practice, and today works as a clinical coordinator for SUPERVALU Pharmacies.

While she was still in school, she explored other rotations to confirm what she really

wanted to do. A residency in a community setting in 2005 turned out to be a dream job.

“I loved what I did every single day,” says Feeney. “It was something different, it was something new. I had patient contact. I helped make interventions on a daily basis that improved patient outcomes.”

Shortly after the residency, she accepted a job with Jewel-Osco splitting time between the store and precepting in a residency location. As medication therapy management began to pick up steam, she began dedicating eight to 16 hours a week to meeting with patients by appointment.

Now working in the store support center, a more corporate setting, Feeney still impacts the community, helping to implement programs such as the clinical specialist appointments and integrated services, in which pharmacists hold shorter patient meetings to identify and document drug interactions and follow up on any necessary issues.

Feeney continues to serve as a residency director and precept students, something she greatly enjoys. When she shows students what community-based programs look like in action, “I’m very enthusiastic,” she says.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **New Recommendations for Acetaminophen**

Last summer, U.S. regulators made it a requirement for acetaminophen (APAP) products to carry stricter warning labels concerning the risk of liver damage associated with the use of this medication. However, advisors to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) met again in late June to discuss the need for even stronger warnings, improved consumer education, and a change in the dosing limits for both over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription APAP.

According to FDA reports, a significant contributing factor to the problems related to APAP is the lack of consumer awareness of its proper use and associated risks, which can result in severe liver damage. Many people may be taking doses of APAP that exceed the recommended amounts for OTC pain relievers because they are under the false assumption that taking extra medication may be more effective against pain and will not have any negative effects on their health. Additionally, many are unaware that numerous other OTC products such as cold, fever, and headache medications already contain APAP; this can result in consumers unknowingly overdosing on APAP. Though the FDA has had on-going consumer education campaigns concerning APAP, FDA report studies have shown “that unintentional and intentional overdoses leading to severe hepatotoxicity continue to occur.”

Due to the significance of these occurrences and the need to ensure public safety, the FDA has made a number of recommendations for APAP and APAP-containing

products. These include:

- Ban on prescription Vicodin (hydrocodone bitartrate and APAP) and Percocet (oxycodone and APAP).
- Stronger warning labels on OTC APAP-containing products such as Tylenol, Excedrin, Nyquil, and Theraflu.
- Lower the nonprescription maximum daily dose of APAP from 4000mg/day to 3250mg/day and the nonprescription maximum single adult dose to 650mg.
  - Patients who consume  $\geq 3$  alcoholic drinks/day will have an even lower nonprescription maximum daily dose.
- Lower the highest available dose of OTC APAP immediate-release formulations from 500mg to 325mg.
- APAP products/dosing containing 1000mg APAP will require a prescription.
- Limit pediatric liquid formulations to one mid-strength concentration (currently, multiple dose strengths are available).
- Require a measuring device (e.g. a calibrated cup with dosing increments) with each liquid formulation.
- Dosing instructions for children  $< 2$  years old if available and supported with data.

As of now, which of these recommendations that will be adopted is still under review. Any subsequent changes to APAP availability and use that are implemented will be done in the hopes of reducing the incidence of acetaminophen overdoses and toxicity.

## EVENTS

### **APhA 2010 Annual Meeting**

Supervalu Pharmacies recruiting team along with members of the clinical team, operations team and pharmacy residents attended APhA in Washington D.C. on March 12-15. We had a great time talking to students, pharmacists and school faculty about community pharmacy. We handed out lab value cards, luggage tags, pens and recyclable bags in addition to our secret give-a-ways for those that knew the code word from our Facebook site.

SUPERVALU Pharmacies was the host for the popular “New Practitioner Night on the Town” held at Ultra Bar. It was a packed event, but a great night all around. Everyone enjoyed 5 floors of music and dancing and left the event with a light up cup to commemorate the evening.

We had a special guest at our booth this year. To see photos of the meeting check out the SUPERVALU Pharmacies Facebook page.

Check out photos of the event at [www.supervalurx.net](http://www.supervalurx.net)

Hope to see you all next year in Seattle, WA!



**Patients**

**Opportunity**

**Passion**