



## PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

### Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC

#### **Additions:**

- Alahist D Tab
- Dovato Tab 50-300mg (Quantity Level Limit)
- Gvoke Hypopen Inj (Quantity Level Limit)
- Phenazopyridine Tab 95 Mg

#### **Removals:**

- None

#### **Other Updates**

- None

### Behavioral Health (Title 19/21 Non-SMI & Non-Title 19/21)

#### **Additions:**

- None

#### **Removals:**

- None

\*\* Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) \*\*

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
  - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
  - ACC: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/completecure-forproviders/pharmacy>

## Potential Risk of Clozapine Toxicity May Occur in Patients With COVID-19

A case report in *Schizophrenia Bulletin* suggests that patients taking clozapine may be at risk of clozapine toxicity if infected with COVID-19. Patients taking the medication are at heightened risk of a rare but serious condition known as neutropenia, which can increase risk of severe infections. The importance of full clinical assessment of suspected COVID-19 infection in clozapine treated patients, including assessment for features of pneumonia, clozapine toxicity, clozapine level, and full blood count. Consideration should be given to dose reduction during infection. The risks posed by clozapine treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic must, however, be balanced against the substantial benefit many patients receive from this medication and the likelihood of mental health deterioration with unplanned treatment cessation.

## It's not too soon to think about flu season and how to manage immunizations, especially during these times

Vaccinations are a priority and incredibly important in avoiding overlaps in diagnosis between COVID-19 and influenza. Assessing, recommending, administering/referring, and documenting of immunizations for all vaccine-preventable diseases are important, particularly in adults aged 65 years and older or with chronic diseases.

Communication is key. Have the discussion with your patients at every interaction to educate on why vaccines are more important now than ever.

While scientists around the world work to develop a vaccine against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), many pharmacists remain on the front line, providing essential patient care services during this public health crisis, including vaccinations.

Vaccine development for COVID-19 is under way, with numerous vaccine candidates being studied in clinical trials. Pharmacists may play a key role in administering immunizations against the SARS-CoV-2 virus when a vaccine becomes available.

### **Practical Steps that Healthcare Workers can take to Help Navigate through these Stressful Times**

Create rituals to strengthen the boundaries between work and home. It's important for people to find a way to let the workday go once they leave.

Engage in positive self-talk, gratitude and self-compassion. Remember your natural skills for caregiving and that you know who to contact when you need help with a problem. Have compassion for yourself when you feel you haven't performed at your best. Too much self-judgment can fuel negative thinking.

Tap into a community of support and create "quality" time. This is no time to be alone. Think about what you need from people, then recruit, shape and maintain a support community that includes colleagues, friends and family. Set boundaries, by taking time off from "pandemic" discussions.

Set priorities. Let go of the tasks that aren't critical. Focus only on what is absolutely necessary and use any other available time for self-care.

Get intentional when dealing with the unknown. It's important to recognize what you can and cannot control. Ultimately, you control you. Let go of the challenges you can't personally impact.

Please take care of yourselves – physically, psychologically and emotionally.

### **Tip of the Month:**

With the hot weather approaching remind members to stay hydrated, drink water, "don't drip, take a sip!"

### **References:**

1. <https://academic.oup.com/schizophreniabulletin/advance-article/doi/10.1093/schbul/sbaa070/5841430>
2. [http://alert.psychnews.org/2020/05/potential-risk-of-clozapine-toxicity.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+PsychiatricNewsAlert+%28Psychiatric+News+Alert%29](http://alert.psychnews.org/2020/05/potential-risk-of-clozapine-toxicity.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+PsychiatricNewsAlert+%28Psychiatric+News+Alert%29)
3. APhA - American Pharmacists Association <[infocenter@aphanet.org](mailto:infocenter@aphanet.org)> COVID-19 Update: Managing Immunizations During the Pandemic
4. <https://behavioralhealthnews.org/healthcare-workers-remember-to-care-for-yourself-too/>

***This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto ([MustoF@mercycares.org](mailto:MustoF@mercycares.org)), Denise Volkov ([VolkovD@mercycares.org](mailto:VolkovD@mercycares.org)) or Trennette R Gilbert ([gilbert@mercycares.org](mailto:gilbert@mercycares.org))***