



PHARMACY HORIZONS

A CDCR PHARMACY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER



SPECIAL EDITION – 2008 IN REVIEW THE FUTURE IS HERE

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From the Chairman...

To the Maxor/CPR team:

When confronted with challenges, I've always said, "If it were easy, everyone else would be doing it." The California Receiver Project is no exception. What has made Maxor's team successful is our willingness to tackle these problems head on and achieve the impossible. We've had a lot of challenges in 2008, but thanks to the hard work, ingenuity, and dedication of our staff, we've successfully turned challenges into opportunities. Each of you is an integral part of this historic project and I thank you for a great year. See ya'll in 2009!



~ *Jerry Hodge*
Chairman
Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corp



The Price of Success...



~ *Allen Sapp*
Vice President, Correctional Administration
Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corp

Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's most famous and inspired architects once said, "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen." When I look back on the past year, I find that our collective successes are the result of the same effort. We have moved the CDCR pharmacy program towards a safer,

more effective and more cost efficient system. Higher levels of accountability exist today than before. More reliable data is available to measure performance and to improve quality of service. The CDCR program has moved significantly towards an enterprise-based system that places its highest priorities on safety, evidence-based practice and efficiency. None of this success would have been possible without the dedication of everyone involved. Each of your efforts has contributed to our collective progress. And, assuredly, it has been hard work along the way. Change is never easy, nor painless. Your diligence and hard work in implementing improved and standardized processes has been a vital part of our gains this past year. Finally, our strategic vision for the CDCR pharmacy program remains clear and bright. The commitment of CPHCS, CDCR, and Maxor leadership to that vision is as strong today as ever. As we see small successes build upon each other, a synergy develops that gives additional impetus to all our work. As we look forward to the next year, continued progress will require the same level of dedication, hard work and devotion to our vision. I am confident that we will look back on 2009 with even more pride in our collective efforts.



Opportunity and Growth....

As we approach the end of 2008 it is an opportunity to look back at what we have achieved and look forward to the future. I joined Maxor and the Receivership project at the end of January 2008, and the year has flown by. In this time we have increased the number of facilities converted to Guardian Rx to 17 with 2 more scheduled for Go-live in January. The Pharmacy Policies and Procedures have undergone their first, and in some cases, second review and Pharmacist hiring has been centralized. We are well on our way to our Road Map goal of *sustainable, patient centered, outcome-driven processes* to create a *stand-alone CDCR managed and operated "best practice" pharmacy system*.



Every time I speak to people about our project I am invigorated and impassioned. We are all involved in an immense change project that is both exciting and, at times, frightening. The opportunity to be involved in a project of this magnitude comes along once, if at all, in most of our Professional lives. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow from the experience. If each one of us engages and becomes involved in the change process we will find that our work lives become more thrilling and fulfilling.

Thank you to everyone for your support and hard work in 2008 and in anticipation of your continued support and hard work in 2009 and the changes to come.

*~ Alison Farrell, RPh
Director of Pharmacy
Maxor/CPR Project*



Hard Work Paying Off...



*~ Melanie Roberts, PharmD
Maxor/CPR Clinical Consultant*

According to the American Society of Health-Systems pharmacists, "the multiplicity of medications available, the complexities surrounding their safe and effective use, and differences in their relative value make it necessary for health systems to have medication use policies that promote rational, evidence-based, clinically appropriate, safe, and cost-effective medication therapy". This is the primary role of the CDCR Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee whose main goal is to apply these principles in a manner that best serve the health care interests of its inmate-patient population.

Since the system-wide P&T Committee was reestablished in February of 2007, many changes have taken place, which have resulted in significant benefits to the system, its employees and most importantly to its patients. The year 2008 was another busy year for the Committee. A few of the many accomplishments included the revision of 22 pharmacy procedures, approval of 7 *new* pharmacy procedures, and the revision of 3 non-pharmacy procedures. In addition, three new therapeutic interchange programs were established and 6 new disease medication management guidelines were approved and deployed. The Committee also worked to refine the Formulary and make adjustment as necessary to best meet the needs of the population served and keep current with today's standards of practice.

The Committee could not realize its goals without the hard work and cooperation of the medical, nursing and pharmacy staff on the front lines each day. Your diligent efforts to implement the initiatives put forth have resulted in improved patient care and significant cost saving for the state. As a result of a lot of hard work over the past two years, many remarkable successes have been realized. There is still much to do and it is certain that 2009 will bring many new challenges, but as Theodore I. Rubin once said about hard work, "Happiness does not come from doing easy work but from the afterglow of satisfaction that comes after the achievement of a difficult task that demanded our best."



A look Forward...

The December newsletter includes a number of articles that remind us of the amazing accomplishments in the CDCR Department of Pharmacy over the last two years toward reaching our goal of excellence in pharmaceutical care. As we move toward our goal, the healthcare system we are a part of moves toward its goal of constitutional health care for inmate patients.



Looking forward, there are some very exciting and historically significant firsts we can expect to see by the end of next year. In 2009 all facilities will have been converted to the GuardianRx[®] pharmacy system and for the first time, medication history will be available to all prisons in a pharmacy system that meets regulatory and safety standards. Another landmark first for CDCR is the anticipated opening of the central fill pharmacy. The benefits to care and the healthcare system are too numerous to include in a brief article, but most importantly, the facility will assure access to medications in a reliable manner for all facilities in a method which will improve safety. Benefits to pharmacy include reduced product handling time allowing facility pharmacies to take more ownership of inventory control outside the pharmacy. The central fill will allow facility pharmacists to focus more energy on improved pharmacotherapy as well. Nursing will benefit as pharmacy takes over delivery and medication organization allowing them more clinical patient care time.

In 2009 we will also continue important steps forward toward development of an electronic Medical Administration (EMAR) and Inventory tracking module for the facilities. Combined with bar code safety scanning and the paperless EMAR accessible at any terminal, the medication management system will gain improvements in safety, efficiency, continuity of care and inventory control.

There are many exciting firsts for CDCR in 2009 - firsts that improve patient care and our working environment. Together, we are making a difference.

*- Matt Keith, RPh, BCPS, FASHP
Maxor/CPR Project Administrator*



Welcome Aboard...

New shipmates at the facility level include **Ronydo Chhim** (Pharm Tech) at CCI; **Sue Varughese** (Pharm I), **Lori Zills** (Pharm Tech), **Kristin Morrison** (Pharm Tech) and **Christina Rivera** (Pharm Tech) at CEN; **Katherine Diep-Kwei** (PIC) at CIW; **Rebecca Kim** (Pharm I) and **Anna Collins** (Pharm Tech) at CRC; **Yehenew Yeshiwas** (Pharm I) and **Barbara Davidson** (Pharm Tech) at DVI; **Chao Li** (Pharm I) at KVSP; **Teresa Holmes** (Pharm I) at LAC; **Kacy Guess** (Pharm I), **Roger Sanchez** (Pharm Tech) and **Lori Hall** (Pharm Tech) at NKSP; **Margaret Yang** (Pharm I), **Daniel Huls** (Pharm Tech), **David Luna** (Pharm Tech) and **Vang Yang** (Pharm Tech) at PVSP; **Linda Witherell**, (Pharm I) at WSP.

Let us know if there are other new shipmates at your facility.



CDCR Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee...

The **CDCR System-wide Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee** did not meet in December. The Committee will reconvene in January 2009 as scheduled.



From All of Us



Merry Christmas!

and

Happy New Year!

Maxor|CPR Project Team

