

**From:** New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists <nmsHP@nmsHP.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2013 8:59 AM  
**To:** Paul Davis  
**Subject:** NMSHP Pager e-Newsletter - December 23, 2013



# NMSHP Pager

December 23, 2013

Note: The **NMSHP Office** will be **closed December 24-25** and **January 1**. Reduced staff will be on hand otherwise during the week to help. We wish you and your family a happy and safe Holiday Season!

## ON THIS DATE

*On **December 23, 1783**, George Washington resigned as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and retired to Mount Vernon, VA. In **1888**, Vincent van Gogh cut off the lower part of his ear with a razor while staying in Arles, France. In **1954**, the first successful kidney transplant was performed. In **1993**, the first major Hollywood movie to focus on the subject of AIDS starring Tom Hanks opened in theaters. In 2009, the “Balloon Boy’s” parents were sentenced to jail in Fort Collins, CO. Today’s Birthdays: Joseph Smith (1805-1844, Founder and leader of the Latter Day Saints); Jose Greco (1918-2000, dancer/choreographer); Paul Hornung (1935, football player); Eddie Vedder (1964, singer/songwriter and guitarist, Pearl Jam, Temple of the Dog, Bad Radio and Hovercraft). **Today’s Trivia:** 1. On which ear did van Gogh perform his self-mutilation? 2. What was the title of the 1993 movie starring Tom Hanks that focused on AIDS? 3. What was the “Balloon Boy’s” parents' crime?*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Kim Neff, PharmD., Ph.C., NMSHP President

### Greetings fellow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians!

It's time to get excited! Not only are the holidays here again, but some new great events are quickly approaching. Let's get some important dates on your calendars!



1. **Proud to be a Pharmacist?** Want to show our state lawmakers that you are capable of so much more than licking, sticking, counting, and pouring? We will be partnering with the UNM College of Pharmacy at the UNM Legislative Day at our State Capitol on **February 5, 2014**. What a better way to display our skillsets than by providing some of our pharmacy services to and making personal connections with our legislators! Additionally, this is a great opportunity to get to know some of our wonderful student pharmacists. Be on the lookout for more info in the coming weeks!
2. **Need CPE?** In an effort to provide more live CPE opportunities to help you meet your licensure requirements, this year we will be hosting an **NMSHP Spring Meeting**. This meeting will be well worth your while, as in just half a day you can obtain 4 hours of live CPE on timely topics, as well as gaining hours in the categories of both safety and opiate CPE. Not only can you enhance your knowledge and start checking off your hours for relicensure, but this is a great time to re-connect with your classmates and pharmacy colleagues around the state. Set the date for **March 8, 2014!** More details to come!

### Touching the hearts of sick kiddos

A special thank you to all those who helped out with the ornament making party last weekend. Due to your efforts and the donated items of some of our members, we were able to make over 100 ornaments and goodies to be distributed to children who are in the local hospitals over the holidays! Way to make a difference everyone! Keep on changing lives! 😊

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday and a wonderful start to 2014!

*See you next year!*

## NMSHP/ASHP

**UNM Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations Due.** The University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a distinguished alumnus who has an outstanding record of achievement in professional practice, service and/or research. Alumni nominated for this award shall demonstrate the highest ideals of professionalism, as well as an extraordinary commitment to pharmaceutical care and/or research. Nominees shall be considered based on their professional practice, service and/or research within the profession of pharmacy. Nominations must be received by January 17, 2014. For details and a nomination form, see the [UNM Website](#).

## STATE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

**C. Diff Report issued by State.** The New Mexico Department of Health released a report describing early findings about Bernalillo County residents with *Clostridium difficile* infections. In **Bernalillo County** during 2011-2012, *C. diff* caused more than **2,400 new infections**. Nearly two thirds of infections were seen in individuals who had a positive laboratory test more than three days after admission to a healthcare facility, or who had had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility the past three months. More than one third of infections were classified as community-associated and were not related to recent overnight stays in healthcare facilities.

The findings among all infections also included:

- Majority of infections were seen in adults over the age of 65, however infections were also seen among children and younger adults.
- Nearly half of individuals had been taking antibiotics.
- One out of four individuals had been taking acid-reducing medications.
- Nearly one out of five individuals had been taking medications that could weaken their immune systems.
- Repeat illness occurred after the original infections were diagnosed in more than one quarter of individuals.

**FDA Questions Anti-Bacterial Soap Claims.** FDA is asking manufacturers of nonprescription anti-bacterial hand soaps and

washes to show proof that the products are safe for long-term daily use and are more effective than plain soap in preventing the spread of infections. The Agency issued a proposed rule that doesn't apply to hand sanitizers and wipes, which are alcohol-based and aren't used with water. The rule also does not apply to anti-bacterial products used in the healthcare setting. The lack of evidence on the effectiveness of the products, the minimal risk of infections in daily settings such as the home, work and public settings and the data indicating that **long-term exposure** to some active ingredients could **pose health risks** such as **bacterial resistance** or **hormonal effects** led the agency to act. FDA hopes to finalize the rules by the fall of 2016.

**Cleveland Hospitals Criticized by Consumer Groups and Union.** Two Ohio public policy advocacy groups and a Cleveland, OH-area labor union have criticized the **Cleveland Clinic and the University Hospitals** healthcare system, claiming that both are affecting the state's largest school system because they do not pay any taxes. The systems use their **tax-exempt status to avoid about \$20 million in annual taxes** that would go to the city's school system. The two hospitals own property assessed at \$1.6 billion.

## PRACTICE & PROFESSION

**NMPHA Mid-Winter Meeting Announced.** The **New Mexico Pharmacists Association** Mid-Winter meeting will be held **Saturday and Sunday, January 25-26, 2014** at the **Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town in Albuquerque**. The program will include up to **10 hours of CPE credit** over the 2 days. Topics include pharmacy law, pre-diabetes, PPIs impact on the risk of *C. Diff* infection, an update on Project Lazarus, insulin pen devices, Medicaid modernization, evolution of medical cannabis in New Mexico, single capsule multiple dose regimens, pharmacy's role in Code Blue, evidence based treatment of pneumonia, HPV vaccination, and adult immunizations. Click here for [program information](#) or [registration details](#). NMSHP members receive the NMPHA member registration rate.

**JNC 8 Guidelines Released.** The long-awaited update from the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8) has been issued. The new guidelines recommend that drug therapy should begin when the systolic pressure is **150 mm Hg or higher** or the diastolic pressure is **90 mm or higher for individuals aged 60 or older**. Younger patients, regardless of age, should begin treatment at a 140/90 or higher level. Initial agents of choice recommended by the guidelines include: Non-black individuals, including those

with diabetes: ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers and thiazide-type diuretics. Black individuals, including those with diabetes: Calcium channel blockers and thiazide-type diuretics. Patients with chronic kidney disease, regardless of race or diabetes: initial or add-on therapy should include an ACE inhibitor or an ARB to improve renal outcomes.

**Tablets Help Manage Care.** HackensackAlliance, an ACO in Hackensack, NJ , **gave** certain groups of **patients** their own **4G tablet computers** to better coordinate and manage their care. The [program is reducing readmissions](#) in patients with chronic heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes, according to an article in Becker's Hospital Review. Nurse care navigators help the patients set up the tablet with a daily plan, including when they should eat, take meds, measure blood glucose or weigh themselves. While the **tablets cost about \$150 each month**, aside from the initial investment in the hardware, the **average cost of a readmission is \$13,200**. Patients who used the tablets had a readmission rate of 8% while a control group had a 28% readmission rate.

**Reminder – Create Your Own CPE Monitor Profile.** The CPE Monitor is a national, collaborative effort by the **National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)** and the **Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)** that allows pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to track their completed CPE credits in a central system. All pharmacy professionals are encouraged to [obtain an NABP e-Profile ID now](#), and register for CPE Monitor, if they have not already done so. **All ACPE-accredited providers only provide credit through documentation uploaded to the CPE Monitor website.**

**Mind Your Body Language.** People often decide whether to trust you before you've said a word, writes Marvin Brown on [ThoughtLeadersblog](#). Your **body language**, expressions, posture and ability to make eye contact is seen as an indicator of intent and **trustworthiness**. Learn a few body-language tricks to make a difference in how you're perceived.

## **NEW DRUGS & DEVICES**

**New COPD Inhaler Approved.** FDA approved **Anoro Ellipta (umeclidinium/vilanterol)** by GSK as the first fixed-dose combination of a long-acting beta agonist and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LABA/LAMA). The once-daily drug powder inhaler is approved for long-term maintenance treatment

of airflow obstruction in **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**. The product will carry a boxed warning that LABAs increase the risk of asthma-related death.

**Hereditary Angioedema Drug Approved for Orphan Status.** FDA has approved Dyax's **DS-2930** for orphan-drug status to study treatment of **hereditary angioedema**. The drug is currently in a Phase I trial. It is designed for once or twice monthly injection to prevent HAE attacks.

## RECALLS, WARNINGS & SHORTAGES

**Abrams Royal Pharmacy Recall.** Abrams Royal Pharmacy of Dallas, TX is voluntarily recalling **all unexpired lots of sterile products** dispensed nationwide due to concerns of lack of sterility assurance. All unexpired lots of sterile compounded products are subject to the recall. Sterile products are injectable medications, IVs, eye drops, pellet implants, nasal sprays, inhalation solutions, and eye ointments. The recall was issued after a single, isolated report of an adverse event involving a patient in California who received a compounded medication from the pharmacy. All recalled products have a label that includes Abrams Royal Pharmacy's name and phone as well as a lot number. While **not every label contains an expiration date**, consumers can call the pharmacy with the lot number and find out the expiration date. Out of an abundance of caution, Abrams Royal is voluntarily recalling all sterile products within expiry. If there is microbial contamination in products intended to be sterile, patients are at risk for serious, potentially life-threatening infections.

**Recall – Soliris (eculizumab).** Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is updating information regarding a previously communicated voluntary recall of two lots of **Soliris (eculizumab) Concentrated Solution for Intravenous Infusion**. As stated on Nov. 12, 2013, the two lots were found to contain visible particles. At that time, Alexion provided instructions to return any unused vials of Soliris from these two lots at the distributor level. Alexion is now providing the same instructions at the hospital/user level. As the product was last shipped on Nov. 1, 2013, Alexion believes there is little, if any, inventory currently being held at the hospital or user level. (Soliris (eculizumab) 300 mg/30 mL Concentrated solution for intravenous infusion only NDC 25682-001-01, Lot number: 10010A and 10001-1.) Any person in possession of vials of Soliris from these lots should stop use and arrange for return of the product to Alexion immediately by calling **888-765-4747**.

**Methylphenidate Drug Safety Communication.** FDA is warning that **methylphenidate** products may, in **rare instances**, cause prolonged and sometimes painful erections known as **priapism**. Based on a recent review of methylphenidate products, FDA updated drug labels and patient Medication Guides to include information about the rare but serious risk of priapism. If not treated right away, priapism can lead to permanent damage to the penis. Priapism appears to be **more common in patients taking atomoxetine** than in those taking methylphenidate products; however, because of limitations in available information, FDA does not know how often priapism occurs in patients taking either type of product.

## INDUSTRY MATTERS

**GSK Drops Payments to Docs and Sales Quotas.** **GlaxoSmithKline** announced that it will **no long pay doctors for promoting its products** and stop payments to healthcare professionals for attending medical conferences. It also has **eliminated prescription quota targets** for its marketing staff, a first for the industry. GSK reached a record \$3 billion settlement with the U.S. government last year over charges that it provided misleading information on certain medications. Additionally, public disclosure laws requiring companies to make public the amounts they pay to healthcare providers has added pressure to review the traditional industry practices.

**BMS Sells Diabetes Business to AstraZeneca.** **Bristol-Myers Squibb** has signed an agreement to **sell its global diabetes business to AstraZeneca**. The business was part of collaboration between the two companies since 2007. The companies anticipate that all employees of BMS dedicated to the diabetes business will be transferred to AZ.

## RESEARCH

**Humira Biosimilar Trial Underway.** **Sandoz** has initiated a Phase III clinical trial with its biosimilar version of **adalimumab (Humira)**. It is the company's sixth biosimilar molecule to enter Phase III testing. The goal of the study is to demonstrate equivalent efficacy, similarity and immunogenicity of the Sandoz product compared to Humira in patients with **moderate to severe plaque-type psoriasis**.

**Antibiotic IV Combo Linked to Kidney Injury.** *MedPage Today* [reports](#) on a study showing that **concomitant IV** use of **vancomycin** and **piperacillin/tazobactam**, regardless of extended or traditional infusion, appears to result in **acute kidney injury** in roughly 20% of inpatients. The study, reported at the ASHP Midyear Meeting, showed that no cases of nephrotoxicity were found among those treated with vancomycin alone, but 22.7% of those treated with the combination, as well as 19.6% of those given an extended infusion, experienced **elevated creatinine levels** to the point of toxicity.

## ANSWER TO TODAY'S TRIVIA

*1. Suffering from severe depression, van Gogh cut the lower part of his left ear. He documented the event in a painting titled "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear." 2. The movie "Philadelphia" focused on the life of Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks), a gay attorney who was unjustly fired from his job because he suffered from AIDS. Hanks won the Best Actor Award from the Academy Awards that year for his role. 3. The so-called "Balloon Boy" caused worldwide attention in October, 2009 when Richard Heene, a handyman and father of 6-year-old Falcon, called FAA to report that a large balloon in his backyard had become untethered and it was believed his son had crawled aboard the craft before it took off. He then called a local TV station requesting a helicopter to track the balloon. Soon thereafter, his wife Mayumi Heene called 911. After the balloon touched down some 50 miles from home rescue officials discovered it was empty, prompting fears that Falcon had fallen from the craft. During a live interview on CNN, Falcon told his parents "you guys said we did this for the show," and the parents ultimately confessed that the incident had been staged to help the family get a reality TV show. Richard was sentenced to 90 days in jail and Mayumi received 20 days of jail time.*

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