

Welcome, New House Staff

On behalf of the Department of Pharmacy Services at the University of Washington Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and UWP Network Clinics, I would like to welcome you. We look forward to working with you during your residency.

You will be receiving copies of the *Drug Therapy Topics* newsletter on a monthly basis. This newsletter is a source of current pharmacotherapy-related information as well as a major communication between the Department of Pharmacy Services, the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, and the Medical Staff. It is intended, in part, to keep you updated on additions and deletions to the medical centers' formulary, along with changes in policies and procedures as approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Your input into its content is welcome.

The medical centers' *Drug Formulary* provides key information regarding drug availability, along with procedures pertaining to medication use. You will be provided with a personal copy of the formulary. For expanded and updated clinical details on all drugs and for "alerts" regarding formulary drugs, you may also access the formulary and the UWMC/HMC Drug Information Center web site electronically at <http://uw.pnrx.org>.

If you have any questions regarding pharmacy services, please ask the clinical pharmacist on the unit or in the clinic or call one of the following pharmacy phone numbers:

Drug Information Center 598-6347	
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee 598-6052	
HMC Ambulatory Pharmacy ... 731-3219	UWMC Ambulatory Pharmacy ... 598-4126
HMC Inpatient Pharmacy ... 731-3220	UWMC Inpatient Pharmacy ... 598-4088
SCCA Ambulatory Pharmacy ... 288-1375	
SCCA IV Infusion Pharmacy ... 288-1381	

Again, a sincere welcome from all of us.

Shabir Somani
Associate Professor and Director,
Department of Pharmacy Services

A University of Washington / Harborview Medical Center Drug Information Center publication
Distributed monthly by authority of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
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Department of Pharmacy Services / School of Pharmacy

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HMC Clinical Pharmacist Directory

HMC Specialty Area	Clinical RPh	Pager/Phone	HMC Specialty Area	Clinical RPh	Pager/Phone
Adult Medicine Clinic	Laura Hanson Theresa O'Young Greta Sweney	994-9727 559-3653 989-5332	MICU/CCU	Megan Hammeke Veena Karir	540-7674 663-2185
AIDS Clinical Trials Unit/ AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit/ HIVNET	Jeff Faris Meredith Potochnic	997-6652 663-0595	Neurology/Rehabilitation	Jill Barnett Thomas McPharlin	997-8306 986-4700
Aminoglycoside Monitoring	Todd Knauerhase Cynthia Walker		Neurosurgery	Randall Mosier Angelyn Solko	541-8459 986-6325
Anticoagulation, Inpatients	Jan Kay Mike Kabalin	540-7155 559-1879	Oncology/Geriatric Medicine	Chris Poland Kathy Takeuchi	680-2972 541-8812
Anticoagulation, Outpatients	Myrna Romack Steve Strockbine	215-0242 989-2372	Orthopaedics Clinic Pharmacy 731-8701	Myrna Romack Steve Strockbine	215-0242 989-2372
Asthma Education	Genia Moncada Fred Simons		Pioneer Square Clinic Pharmacy 521-1762	Ron Burr Elaine Pappas Mary Kelly	991-9471 989-4556 989-4552
Burn Service/Pediatrics/ Plastic Surgery	Amanda Krische Kurt Round	541-8814 998-0003	Psychiatry	Karen Hansen Dick Miyoshi Barry Sommerdorf	540-9793 541-8815 989-6178
Diabetes Clinic	Theresa O'Young	559-3653	Pulmonary Clinic	Genia Moncada Fred Simons	
Discharge Team	Kim Baker Guy Johnson Halli Waldbaum		Perscription Refill Center (serves HMC and UWMC) 731-5512	Jean Au Manzi Berlin Lori Hall Carol Johnson Cathy Null Tom Phillips Andrea Tofan	
Family Medicine Clinic	Alvin Goo	663-1844	Senior Care/Neurosciences/ Cardiology Clinic	Karen Crabb Brett Markle Fred Simons	989-4560 989-4553
Home Care/Drug Use Evaluation	Jeff Purcell	626-2082	Trauma/Surgical ICU	Susie Lee Megan McMurray	997-7742 541-8816
International Medicine Clinic	Ryan Culala Katie Lai Alycia Lee Ann Nguyen Zeri Shenkute	540-6367 663-6337 989-4551 991-6389 540-7107	Women's & Children's Clinic Pharmacy 731-2282	Heidi Kalister Kathy Lee Ronald Shure Marianne Weber Jennifer White	989-4544 989-4559 989-4549 645-6906
Investigational Drugs/ Medicine G	Asaad Awan	982-5615			
Madison Clinic	Jeff Faris Pam Frick Bethany Hykes Brad Kosel Bob Loeffelbein Meredith Potochnic Anita Shah	997-6652 989-3506 994-8393 982-5195 994-6863 663-0595 541-0556			
Medicine A / Medicine C	Marcela Aguilar Tracy Burns Jennifer Kaden	998-0207 998-2749 541-8817			
Medicine B / Medicine D	Ken Jarman My-Trang Robinson	997-7266 541-4220			

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Anticoagulation	Martha Dye-Whealan	995-9467	Investigational Drugs	Sheree Miller	991-4290	
	Todd Kaden	995-9467		Janice Yamauchi		
	Yvonne Mark	598-5579	Maternal-Infant Care	Roger Dean	541-8871	
	Jenny Mehlberg	598-5579		Fred Leibold	997-0654	
	Colleen Sekreta	994-9602		Medicine-General	Tim Jancel	543-1166
	Ann Wittkowsky	994-9763			Sheila Wilhelm	
Bone Marrow Transplant, Inpatient	Renee Freitag	998-0723	Medicine-ICU	Carolyn Rohrs	995-7018	
	Scott Lanum	583-9327		Mark Stenwall	994-6758	
	Ania Sweet	997-6170	Medical Specialties Clinic	Julie DeCamp-Palmer	583-1166	
	Edmund Wong	995-5603		Lisa Wu		
Bone Marrow Transplant, Outpatient	Bee Chua	994-7579	Medication Cost Management & Outcomes	Janet Kelly	541-6863	
	Anne Poon	994-0940		Kim Donnelly		680-0874
	Stephanie Magdanz	994-1208	Neurology/Psychiatry/ Rehabilitation	Erica Barner	994-5881	
Cardiology	Lynda Tanagi	994-6736		Bridget Haupt	991-6748	
	Cardiothoracic Surgery	Andrew Barnes	994-0581	OR Pharmacy Satellite	Dolly Kusulos	680-4638
Diabetes Care Center		Jennifer Beach	559-2167		Helena Ruohonen	997-4044
	Jon Sonoda	680-0868	Revenue Services		Jill Langle	989-2275
Drug Services	Richard Hoffman	991-3464		Solid Organ Transplant	Mai Dang	559-8698
	Family Medicine Clinic	Allan Ellsworth (School of Pharmacy)	598-5618		Mary Hebert (School of Pharmacy)	616-5016
Hemetology/Oncology, Inpatient		Mary Chi	626-4161		Julie Sprinkle	541-8160
	Karl Kwok	991-4282	Baxi Vu		541-4446	
	Amy McWilliams	540-1108	Surgery-General	Jennifer Brzana	541-7789	
Hematology/Oncology, Outpatient	Nancy Cherry	995-7350		Beth Irvine	541-8714	
	Julie Garrison	541-7791				
Infectious Disease	Doug Black (School of Pharmacy)	685-2714				

Letter to the Editor: Additional Information on Bisphosphonates

To the Editor, *Drug Therapy Topics*:

I greatly enjoy *Drug Therapy Topics* as well as the Supplement, and find that these publications enhance my ability to stay abreast of changes in medicine. Thank You!

In your recent issue (Vol 31, No 5 May 2002) you reviewed use of bisphosphonates in treatment of osteoporosis. I thought it well written and helpful, especially the emphasis on proper administration as well as supplementation of calcium and vitamin D. However, the information you presented concerning use of etidronate was slightly misleading. One of the reasons it was NOT approved by the FDA is that it showed efficacy in prevention of fractures ONLY in women who had 2 or more pre-existing vertebral fractures at the beginning of the study. Furthermore, gain in BMD slowed

after the two-year data were published, so that by the third year of the study no benefit was noted in women without underlying osteoporosis (those without baseline fractures). The study did not support use of etidronate for prevention of osteoporosis nor for treatment in women without pre-existing fractures (i.e., those meeting WHO BMD criteria for diagnosis of osteoporosis but without fractures). Denial of approval was not based on potential mineralization defects since the study was designed to avoid that particular toxicity.

Additionally, although the bioavailability of etidronate is similar to that of other bisphosphonates, its gastric absorption is much slower than that of alendronate or risedronate. A full hour of fasting following administration of etidronate must be ob-

served, whereas studies of alendronate have shown gastric absorption after even 15 minutes (30 minutes are recommended to encompass outliers). This makes dosing of etidronate (given the cyclic regimen) quite difficult for most patients.

Another topic that practitioners frequently ask about is whether or not it is advisable to double-up on bone anti-resorptive agents. This practice (eg. bisphosphonate plus estrogen) is not recommended as it may cause too much inhibition of bone remodeling and thus prevent repair of day-to-day bone microdamage. This might be a good topic at some point in the future.

Marie L. Villa, MD
 UWAMC Long Term Care Service
 Harborview Medical Center

Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Actions

Formulary Additions	Dosage Form(s), Strength(s), & Cost [‡]	Therapeutic Classification	Use	Usual Adult Starting Dose*
Bivalirudin (Angiomax)	Injection: 250mg-\$333.78	Thrombin Inhibitor	Anticoagulant in patients with unstable angina and HIT undergoing PTCA	1mg/kg IV bolus followed by 2.5mg/kg/hr x 4 hr
Ethinyl estradiol/ Norelgestromin (Ortho Evra)	Transdermal: releases 0.02mg ethinyl estradiol + 0.15mg norelgestromin/24 hours-\$2.33	Contraceptive	Contraception	Cyclic: One patch each week x 3; then no patch x 1 week
Fenoldopam (Corlopam)	Injection: 10mg/mL (1mL-\$153.87, 2mL-\$307.74)	Vasodilator	Severe hypertension	Individualized
Note: Added to the UWMC/HMC drug formulary restricted to use for prevention of radiocontrast nephropathy.				
Moxifloxacin (Avelox)	Tablet: 400mg-\$3.85; Injection: 400mg/250mL-\$13.44	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic	Various infections	400mg IV or PO q 24 hours

* Refer to product labeling for full prescribing information. † Costs represent UWMC/HMC outpatient acquisition costs and do not include pharmacy dispensing fees.

UWMC Medical Director To Assume New Position

Dr. Eric Larson, Medical Director of the University of Washington Medical Center since 1989, will be leaving his position on November 1. He has been appointed as the new director of the Center for Health Studies at Group Health Cooperative. Dr. Larson will continue his clinical practice at UW Medical Center and UWMC Roosevelt.

At the Center for Health Studies, Dr. Larson will be head of the organization that conducts and manages research activities within Group Health. Founded in 1983, the research center has a staff of 230, including a scientific core of 30 investigators, research associates, and biostatisticians. Many of the scientists are also faculty members at the UW. Dr. Larson, who is well known for his research in aging, dementia, and technology assessment, has worked cooperatively with Group Health in some of his projects.

Dr. Larson first came to UWMC as a senior fellow in 1975 and has been Medical Director since 1989. The P & T Committee and the editor acknowledge the many contributions Dr. Larson has made to safe and cost-effective drug therapy at UWMC.

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VOL. 31, NO. 8

**Supplement:
Contemporary Issues
in Drug Therapy**



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drug therapy topics