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## Features

### **What you need to know from last week's 340B Coalition Summer Conference**

While the mega-guidance was not a focus of last week's conference, there were a number of important issues arising from the meeting. Our experts were on-hand to gather the most relevant information concerning compliance. What you need to know is available [here](#).

### **Changes in CMS policy regarding billing for Part B drug waste**

At the ASHP meeting in June, an important topic under discussion was the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services's recent change in policy regarding the use of the JW Modifier for discarded Part B drugs and biologicals. Originally scheduled to go into effect on July 1, the change is delayed until January 1, 2017. This is a good opportunity for pharmacy to evaluate internal billing operations with an eye toward risk for revenue reduction and risk for compliance. Jim Jorgenson, Visante CEO, explains

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## Drug Diversion is an equation: A + O = D<sup>2</sup>

In our most recent blog about drug diversion, Greg Burger and Maureen Burger discuss how Access plus Opportunity are the key factors that together result in diversion activity. There are a number of key areas that are often overlooked or underestimated as sources of access, and opportunity unfortunately abounds in many hospitals. [Read more here](#) about where to look for diversion.

## Challenges with the introduction of biosimilars

The availability of biosimilars in the U.S. will reduce costs and improve access to important agents. However, there are practical challenges in the adoption of these products by formulary committees, benefit plans, and health systems, and safe and effective integration in the overall medication-use process. Careful consideration of these issues must occur in order to prevent inadvertent product switching, assure optimal utilization and access, and minimize patient risk. [Read more here](#) in an article written by James Stevenson and published in the *American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits*.

## How to make hospitals less deadly (Hint: pharmacists)

Unsurprisingly, a recent *Wall Street Journal* article suggests involving pharmacists is an important step to making hospitals less deadly. Citing a 2001 study, the *WSJ* pointed out that putting pharmacists in patient areas reduced errors by 45% and cut errors leading to death by 94%. [Access the full WSJ article here](#).

## Stevenson again appointed to Michigan Board of Pharmacy

Michigan governor Rick Snyder announced the reappointment of James Stevenson to the Michigan Board of Pharmacy. The 11-member board is responsible for regulating and inspecting the practice of pharmacy and drugs manufactured and distributed in the state. Jim Stevenson, PharmD, FASHP, is the President of Hospital and Health System Services for Visante. He is also a professor at the University of Michigan's College of Pharmacy. Jim previously served as the chief pharmacy officer of the University of Michigan Health System. [Learn](#)

## RECENT WEBINAR

### **Drug Diversion: Not IF, but WHEN.**

The presenters discussed key factors in hospital drug diversion readiness and a proactive response. Visante's own drug diversion experts Greg Burger and Maureen Burger were joined by Chris Fortier, Chief Pharmacy Officer at Massachusetts General Hospital, to discuss his organization's experience with drug diversion and the DEA. [Click here](#) to access the webinar and associated materials.

## PUBLICATIONS

**"Challenges with the Introduction of Biosimilars in the U.S."** by James Stevenson, PharmD, FASHP, published in the *American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits*, June, 2016.

David Kvancz, MS, RPh, FASHP, provided expert input into a recent NDPDP white paper titled, **"Recommendations for Dose Accumulation in the Inpatient Setting: Acetaminophen Case Model."** The new white paper identifies sources of unintentional acetaminophen overdosages and opportunities to improve its safe use in the hospital setting. Read more [here](#).

## PRESENTATIONS

**Kristin Fox-Smith, MPA**, will present "The Many Adventures of Prescription Drug Benefits" at the Transplant Financial Coordinators Association (TFCA) meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The meeting runs from September 12-14.

[more about Jim Stevenson here.](#)



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