

NPO Weekly Pharmacy Newsletter

September 26, 2011

Reminder about spacing Pneumovax® and Zostavax® Immunizations

In January of 2010 the recommendation for spacing Pneumovax® and Zostavax® Immunizations is four weeks. I continually have patients arriving for Zostavax® at my store who just left their physician's office after receiving Pneumovax®. When they find out that they have to wait and come back later they always ask me why their doctor did not tell them that. Of course I tell them that this is a new recommendation, but FYI here it is again.

ONDCP Releases 2011 Drug Control Strategy

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recently released the 2011 National Drug Control Strategy with three policy priorities: reducing prescription medication abuse, addressing drugged driving and preventing medication abuse before it begins. Here is a link to the full report on their website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp> My personal opinion is that we will all be seeing more regulation on prescribing and dispensing to help them "accomplish" this. Hopefully part of this will be to finally allow e-prescribing of controlled substances.

Newest to Join the "Club"

Speaking of e-prescribing, we would like to congratulate Dr. Rob Kuhn and the staff at Northern Michigan Medicine and Pediatrics for implementing e-prescribing at this time. Thanks to you all and to all NPO members please let us know if any of you have any questions or need any support in your e-prescribing endeavors.

Primatine Mist® To Be Discontinued

Primatine Mist® will no longer be available as of December 31, 2011. The reason for this is that it contains fluorocarbons. At this time, no replacement is announced, so the only alternative for asthmatic patients are prescription inhalers.

Remicaide® Approved in Patients Older than 6 Years

The FDA just approved Remicaide® in patients older than 6 years for Ulcerative Colitis.

Zymar® Ophthalmic Generic Approved

This was recently approved as a generic. It may not be available in stores at this time, but will be soon.