Psoriasis (PsO) is an autoimmune disease where skin cells build up and form scaly, itchy, and dry patches. PsO is a lifelong disease with spontaneous remission and exacerbation. Up to 30% of patients will also have psoriatic arthritis (PsA) which consists of joint inflammation, pain, stiffness, and swelling. Currently, there is no cure for PsO and PsA, so treatments are focused more on alleviating symptoms, reducing disease severity, and improving quality of life. The goal of this article is to examine treatment selections of biologics for patients with moderate-severe PsO and PsA. Most biologics included in this article, with the exception of etanercept, will allow at least 70% of PsO patients to experience a 75% improvement after 3 months and at least 50% of PsA patients to experience at least a 20% improvement after 6 months. The patient’s insurance coverage, comorbidities, and dosing preference are major factors that should be taken into consideration when selecting a biologic.
Assessment of the Implementation of Pharmacists’ Prescriptive Authority to Furnish Hormonal Contraceptives, Naloxone, and Nicotine Replacement Therapy in California
Janet Petrosyan; Tina Tchalikian; Alicia O’Connor; Juliana Avakeretyan; Marina Dykhne, PharmD, BCACP, APh, CDCES

The objectives of this study were to assess the implementation of pharmacists’ prescriptive authority to furnish hormonal contraceptives, naloxone, and NRT in California as allowed by the Board of Pharmacy and accessibility to these services by patients in order to facilitate the development of strategies to expand them. The objective of the first part was to investigate reported awareness and barriers to implementation of services, while the second part was to report actual implementation rates. This study aimed to identify barriers and opportunities for pharmacists to implement services within their expanded scope of practice that promotes public health and safety. [Read more]

Perceptions and Attitudes of Pharmacogenomics Through the Lens of Community Pharmacists and Patients
Dalga D. Surofchy, PharmD, APh; Christina L. Mnatzaganian, PharmD, BCACP, APh; Lord V. Sarino, PharmD; Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD

The primary objective of this study is to characterize perceptions and attitudes of pharmacists and patients towards PGx testing. A secondary aim of this study is to identify barriers to PGx implementation into clinical practice, such as in a community pharmacy setting. [Read more]

Switch from Infliximab to Infliximab-dyyb for Rheumatology Indications
Alexi Spoto, PharmD, BCPS; Katie Pitcher, PharmD, APh, BCGP; Rita Hui, PharmD, MS; Aeris Lautchang

Multiple expert panels at Kaiser Permanente approved infliximab-dyyb (Inflectra®), a biosimilar to the reference product infliximab (Remicade®), to be the preferred infliximab agent for therapeutic substitution from infliximab for adult patients with dermatologic, rheumatologic, and/or gastroenterologic diagnoses. The objective of this study was to assess the safety and effectiveness of infliximab-dyyb for Kaiser Permanente Northern California patients with psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis who switched from infliximab to infliximab-dyyb. [Read more]

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