

# Pharmacy Enterprise

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## 2023 Annual Report



## Our Vision

“ The Pharmacy Enterprise will be a national leader in providing progressive, high quality, patient-centered, cost effective pharmacy services across the continuum of care in the dynamic healthcare landscape “

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**“Actively Seeking Excellence”**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF PHARMACY OFFICER



**Robert Pellechio, RPh, MPA**

Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer

Welcome to the eighth Annual RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise annual report. The Pharmacy Enterprise is an integrated system of divisions with responsibility for clinical, financial, quality, safety, and social outcomes related to medication use across the continuum of care at RWJBarnabas Health. Our enterprise has 24 divisions comprised of 14 hospital divisions and 10 integrated service divisions. A detailed summary of each of these divisions is enclosed within the pages of this annual report. This report is intended to highlight and explain many of the incredible achievements our team has realized over the last year. These extraordinary accomplishments are attributed to the talents and relentless drive of our group in actively seeking excellence for our health system with the mantra of “One System-One Family” philosophy, always in mind.

With Mark E. Manigan at the helm as President and Chief Executive Officer and John W. Doll as Chief Operating Officer at RWJBH, we continued to enhance integration across all its divisions, facilities and service lines in 2023. This service line approach includes a clinical and business executive supported by interdisciplinary teams to create goals and tactics to enhance and track patient care and financial performance. A system Epic roll-out continued throughout the system in 2023 with great collaboration and success. We also went through a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) change that is projected to have future additional value for our system, both clinically and financially.

The year was not without some external complexities for our system. A nearly 5-month job action by the nursing union in New Brunswick contributed to unbudgeted costs for our system. However, our system pharmacy family pulled together to support a tremendous effort by our New Brunswick pharmacy colleagues. Adding to these challenges were governmental funding cuts, increases in drug costs and supply chain shortages.

The acute care facilities were hard at work on a wide variety of clinical initiatives including order set and practice guideline development, shortage mitigation, creation and maintenance of standardized system policies and procedures, and increasing biosimilar medication utilization. Pharmacy Enterprise Collaboratives continued to work with Service Line leaders to promote clinical excellence across the organization. Collaboration with infectious disease, neurology, oncology, emergency medicine, critical care, pediatric and quality service lines have continued to be a major focus for pharmacy and will continue in 2024. As the service lines have become more established, Pharmacy has served as a critical bridge on projects and initiatives that cross multiple service lines. As in previous years, education and post-graduate pharmacy training was a major focus for the Pharmacy Enterprise. Over 580 student rotations occurred across our organization in 2023. The RWJBH Residency Leadership Forum graduated its 7th class and started training its 8th class in various leadership topics to create a pool of highly qualified clinicians with leadership expertise. Over 168 pharmacy residents have received this training since the program’s inception in 2016. The Pharmacy Enterprise continues to align with Rutgers University to provide faculty and real-world training opportunities across our organization.

Corporate Pharmacy supported the Cerner-to-Epic conversion of eight hospitals by project management and scheduling of over 200 System pharmacists in addition to directly participating in 5 dry runs, 2 backload events, and provided over 30 shifts of on-site, live participation. Order set development, project management and issue resolution are a few of the many ways that the Pharmacy subject matter experts ensured the success of the project. Pharmacy’s focus on patient safety and professional excellence will be the backbone for providing ongoing support for all our service lines and the evolution of Epic.

In Ambulatory Pharmacy, our four embedded ambulatory pharmacists continue to focus on improving outcomes in chronic disease state management in our primary medical group. They collaborated with

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF PHARMACY OFFICER**

Population Health, Employee Health and Ambulatory Care to ensure that diabetic employees in our practices are followed for A1C reduction. There was also further collaboration with Population Health on A1C reduction in alignment with the value based Horizon contract.

Our retail pharmacy network continued to excel in their support of patient care and education. Dispensary of Hope provided approximately \$400K in free medication to our patients who need assistance. This was over 500,000 doses in five of our retail sites. Our relationship with Rutgers School of Pharmacy, through nationally recognized professor Lucio Volino, contributed 143 programs to over 1500 outreach patients within our catchment areas.

In 2023 Qualitas was the National winner of the MMIT Specialty Pharmacy Patient Choice award for Hospitals & Health System Pharmacies. Edging out Parkland and Vanderbilt systems for this honor. Qualitas also changed their name to “RWJBarnabas Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy”. This will better align our specialty pharmacy with our national brand.

The 340B Division was involved with the successes of the Epic roll out in five 340b facilities with little-to-no WAC impact to the pharmacy budget. They assisted with the conversion to the new GPO and finalized a contract pharmacy P&L statement process with accounts payable. The division’s work also led to a dramatic increase in split-billing and contract pharmacy revenue.

The Pharmacy Reimbursement Division (PRD) recovered millions of dollars in potentially lost medication reimbursement for our system through their talent along with relentless and persistent effort. Their ongoing work with Revenue Integrity, Managed Care, Epic Willow and Hospital Billing teams have contributed to additional savings and revenue generation, as outlined later in this report. This team oversees all the drug replacement programs in the system.

The Pharmacy Enterprise was instrumental in the successful inaugural year of the RWJBH System Formulary Committee. The RWJBarnabas Health System Formulary Committee is a joint effort between pharmacy and the System Quality and Standards Division and is comprised of physicians, nurses, pharmacy, executive and quality leaders from across the RWJBH IDN. The purpose of the RWJBH Formulary Committee is to integrate all individual site formularies to enhance drug selection and procurement; standardize medication ordering within the electronic health record; improve patient care, outcomes and safety; and decrease medication related costs. The work of this committee has highlighted the importance of the RWJBarnabas Health service line model and the impact that aligning mission and vision can have across disciplines. The committee gathered for four meetings throughout the year to support the work of the Formulary Committee. Seven drugs were added to the system formulary. Seven clinical excellence initiatives reduced practice variability with two of those initiatives providing tangible cost savings to the system.

Throughout the 2023 corporate pharmacy continued its efforts with drug cost-avoidance and recovered over \$8 million related to better medication NDC selection, identification of incorrectly loaded contracts and overcharged invoices which was aided by the implementation of a data surveillance tool. The success was due to interdepartmental collaboration and persistent communication with hospital-based pharmacy buyers. Another \$23 million in spend was avoided by prudent planning and pharmacy interventions that resulted in conversions to biosimilar medications.

The RWJBarnabas Health Plan has transitioned from our own mail-order pharmacy to a national outsourced pharmacy in 2023 for employees. The Pharmacy team has helped with this major transition by supporting our employees with our in-house retail and specialty pharmacy networks. We will continue to assist the health plan with future formulary decisions and changes in medication therapies to help reduce costs and maintain the health of our employees and their families.

I am tremendously excited to continue to collaborate with our internal and external partners into 2024 and beyond. With our system mantra of One System, One Family, and our commitment to being the best place to deliver and receive excellent care, our focus is clear. As healthcare continues to evolve, pharmacy is poised to thrive in our relentless pursuit of clinical and financial excellence.



## Governance and Structure

# Pharmacy Enterprise Executive Council

*The RWJBarnabas Health Executive Council is responsible for defining, prioritizing, overseeing and monitoring the performance of the pharmacy enterprise. The focus of the committee is operations, clinical activities and integrated services within the enterprise.*

*The committee is guided by analyzing and aggregating enterprise and service line performance data, monitoring performance improvement efforts for effectiveness, and making recommendations for enterprise or individual service line changes.*

*The Executive Pharmacy Council is the approval entity for recommendations from the Pharmacy Directors and Clinical Pharmacy Councils*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Corporate Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer

**Members:** Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration, Corporate Director 340B Program

## Meetings

The Executive Pharmacy Council shall meet monthly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Chair, but not less than quarterly

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Enterprise-wide clinical and operational performance improvement, tracking progress, identifying barriers, and discussing possible solutions
- Reviews and recommends a multi-year strategic plan with long term and annual improvement targets
- Approves and monitors a dashboard of key performance indicators
- Provides oversight, monitoring and assessment of key organizational processes, outcomes, and external comparative benchmarks
- Individual members accept accountability for removing barriers, assigning resources and ensuring implementation and compliance of goals and policy of the Pharmacy Enterprise
- Serves as forum for identification of best practices and oversees the management of strategic workforce
- Recognizes and recommends advocacy forums for teammates' accomplishments
- Oversees, evaluates and revises the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Plan
- Provides annual update to the RWJBarnabas Health Quality Executive Council on service line performance on selected benchmarks, performance improvement projects and compliance with regulatory requirements
- Creation of Pharmacy Enterprise Annual Report for internal and external distribution

## Sub-Councils

Pharmacy Directors Council  
Clinical Pharmacy Council





**Robert Pellechio, RPh,  
MPA**

Senior Vice President and Chief  
Pharmacy Officer  
Chair of Executive Council



**Doug DeStefano,  
PharmD**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Pharmacy  
Operations



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Integrated  
Pharmacy Services



**Bryan McCormick,  
CPhT, MBA**

Corporate Director 340B  
Program



**Jodie Skayhan,  
PharmD**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Operations



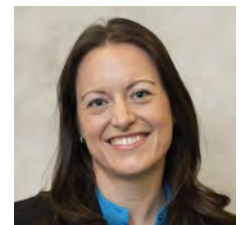
**Ellen Secaras, MBA,  
RPh**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Systems Integration



**Suzanne Sesta, RPh,  
BCSCP**

Vice President of RWJBarnabas  
Health Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



**Jennifer Sternbach,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Clinical Pharmacy  
Services

## Pharmacy Enterprise Directors Council

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Directors Council is responsible for establishing system-wide pharmacy goals, overseeing and monitoring the performance of all medication management activities throughout the system and collaborating with the Clinical Pharmacy Council in carrying out these activities. The Council works to standardize processes, standardize policies, establish metrics to measure progress and expand the role of the pharmacist in the system so that they practice to the full extent of their licensure. The Council monitors the use of automation, standardizes equipment selections, monitors facilities so that they remain compliant with current regulations, and develops and approves system policies for the pharmacists in the system.*

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### Membership

**Chair:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations

**Members:** Corporate Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer, Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Assistant Vice President of Retail Pharmacy Network, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration, and Directors of Pharmacy from the Acute Care and Integrated Services Lines

### Meetings

The Pharmacy Directors Council shall meet monthly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Chair, but not less than quarterly

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Establishment of system-wide quality improvement activities, tracks progress by facility as well as aggregately towards completion, identifying any barriers, discussing and implementing solutions to overcome them
- Monitors key performance indicators and workload statistics
- Monitors medication errors and ADRs to implement standardized prevention methods
- Coordinates care of patients beyond the acute care setting
- Standardizes automation and equipment, reference materials, formulary process, medication use policies, tracking on activities, interventions and identification of ADRs
- Standardizes processes and policies throughout the system
- Increases compliance with Group Purchasing Organization (HPG) contracts to maximize value
- Develops career opportunities for staff development and career ladders
- Works to expand the practice of pharmacy and the role of the pharmacist within the system

### Sub-Committees

Clinical Pharmacy Council

### Collaboratives

Informatics Collaborative  
Oncology Collaborative  
Medication Management Collaborative  
Pharmacy Buyers Collaborative  
Sterile Products Collaborative



**Doug DeStefano, PharmD**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations  
Chair of Directors Council



**Kwakye Acheampong PharmD, BCPS**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**James Barna, PharmD, RPh**

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital



**Gary Del Piano, PharmD**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus



**Heather DeSanto, PharmD, BCSCP**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Maria DeVivo, PharmD, MPA, BCPS, BCACP**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Jersey City Medical Center



**Lynne Goldstein, RPh, MBA**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Community Medical Center



**Sharon Greasheimer, MPA, PharmD, RPh**

Director of Pharmacy, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Michael P. Kane, RPh, BCOP**

Executive Director, Oncology Pharmacy Services, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



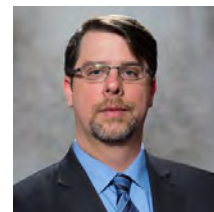
**Jessica Koerner, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy



**Jonathan Margolin, MHA, RPh, ACHE**

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



**Scott Mathis, PharmD**

Regional Director of Pharmacy Services, Monmouth Medical Center Campuses



**Bryan McCormick, CPhT, MBA**

Corporate Director 340B Program, Corporate Pharmacy



**Anita McNeill, RPh, BCSCP**

Director of Pharmacy, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Fernando Oliveira, BA Biology**

System Director of Pharmaceutical Procurement, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Robert Pellechio, RPh, MPA**

Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer



Mona Philips, RPh, MAS

Director of Pharmacy Services,  
Clara Maass Medical Center



Irina Polotskiy, PharmD,  
BCPS

Director of Pharmacy Services,  
RWJ University Hospital  
Rahway



Mary Pulidore, BSN, RN

Director of Nursing,  
RWJBarnabas Health Infusion  
and Specialty Pharmacy  
Services



Ellen Secaras, MBA,  
RPh

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Systems Integration, Corporate  
Pharmacy



Suzanne Sesta, RPh,  
BCSCP

Vice President of RWJBarnabas  
Health Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



Ronald Simbulan, RPh

Director of Pharmacy,  
RWJBarnabas Health Infusion  
and Specialty Pharmacy  
Services



Jodie Skayhan, PharmD

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Operations, Corporate  
Pharmacy



Jennifer Sternbach,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCACP

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Clinical Pharmacy  
Services



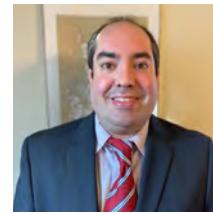
Christine Tricarico,  
PharmD, MBA, FACHE

Administrative Director, Inpatient  
Clinical Operations, Children's  
Specialized Hospital



Stuart Vigdor, BS Pharm,  
RPh

Director of Pharmacy Services,  
RWJ University Hospital  
Somerset



Francisco Vila, PharmD,  
CSP

Director of RWJBarnabas Health  
Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy  
Services



Joe Voelkel, RPh

Assistant Vice President, Retail  
Pharmacy Network

Kim Walsh, RPh, MBA

Director of Pharmacy Services,  
RWJBH Behavioral Health  
Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Clinical Council

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Clinical Council is responsible for developing, operationalizing and monitoring the clinical pharmacy initiatives within the Pharmacy Enterprise. The focus of the council is to garner consensus amongst the clinical coordinators and managers within the acute care and integrated services divisions. The council is guided by evidence-based medicine and results of the performance improvement recommendations from the Pharmacy Directors Council and the Executive Pharmacy Council.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Assistant Vice President Clinical Pharmacy Services

**Members:** RWJBarnabas Health Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer, Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration and Clinical Leadership from the Acute Care and Integrated Services Lines

## Meetings

The Clinical Pharmacy Council shall meet monthly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Chair, but not less than quarterly

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Implements strategies for system wide clinical pharmacy performance initiatives including operational oversight, education, monitoring, identifying barriers, and discussing possible solutions
- Incorporates the continuous quality improvement philosophy and methodologies to facilitate changes that support the Quality Portfolio
- Communicates clinical goals, tactics, activities and results
- Recognizes and celebrates successful performance improvement efforts
- Monitors medication errors and ADRs to implement standardized prevention methods
- Individual members accept accountability for removing barriers, assigning resources and ensuring implementation and compliance of goals and policies of the Pharmacy Enterprise
- Provides leadership, professional development, advocacy and resources that enable pharmacists to achieve excellence in practice
- Serves as a forum for identification and consensus of best practices
- Recommends and implements institutional policies and procedures related to quality, patient safety and performance improvement initiatives
- Advances clinical pharmacy through support and promotion of research, training and education

## Collaboratives

Ambulatory Care Collaborative  
Critical Care Collaborative  
Emergency Department Collaborative  
Infectious Diseases Collaborative  
Pediatric Collaborative  
Psychiatric Collaborative  
Perioperative Pharmacy Collaborative  
Residency Ambassadors



**Jennifer Sternbach, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services  
Chair of Clinical Council



**Daniel Abazia, PharmD, BCPS, CPPS**

Director, PGY2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy Residency, RWJ University Hospital,  
Clinical Associate Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



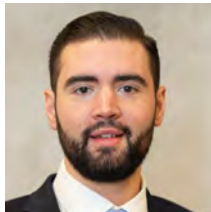
**Alison Brophy, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**

Assistant Director, Pharmacy Clinical Services, PGY1 Residency Program  
Director, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Suzanne Caravella, PharmD, BCPS, RPh**

Clinical Coordinator, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



**Alexander Clark, PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Clinical Services, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



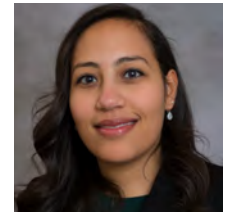
**Doug DeStefano, PharmD**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations



**Nancy Doherty, MS, RPh**

Clinical Coordinator, Medication Safety Officer, PGY1 Residency Program Director, RWJ University Hospital Somerset



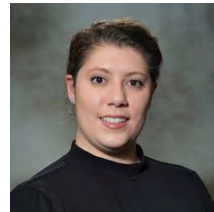
**Yasmine Elbaga, PharmD, BCPS**

Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus



**Germin Fahim, PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY1 Residency Program Director, Monmouth Medical Center



**Anne Ficalora, PharmD, BCSCP**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Services, Community Medical Center



**Alyssa Gallipani, PharmD, BCACP**

Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist - RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group, PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director



**Polly Jen, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP**

Assistant Director of Clinical Services, PGY1 Residency Program Director, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**Karen Kisty, PharmD, BCPS**

Manager of Pharmacy Services, Children's Specialized Hospital



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy



**Henry Leach, PharmD, BCPP**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY2 Psychiatric Residency Program Director, RWJBH Behavioral Health Center



**Carolyn Lucchese, PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Clinical Pharmacy, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



**Sharon Mindel, PharmD,  
MBA**

Assistant Clinical Director of  
Pharmacy, PGY1 Residency  
Program Director, RWJ University  
Hospital



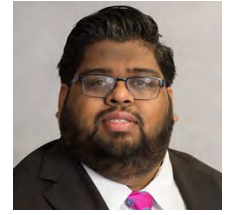
**Sandy Moreau, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY1  
Pharmacy Residency Program  
Director, Jersey City Medical  
Center



**Rahul Nakrani, MBA,  
MS**

340B Analyst,  
Corporate Pharmacy



**Mitesh M Patel, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy  
PGY1 Residency Program  
Director, Clara Maass Medical  
Center



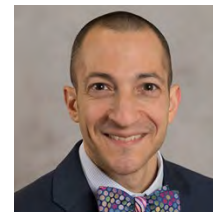
**Robert Pellechip, RPh,  
MPA**

Senior Vice President and Chief  
Pharmacy Officer, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Ellen Secaras, MBA,  
RPh**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Systems Integration, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Lucio Volino, PharmD**

Clinical Pharmacist Retail Network  
and Clinical Associate Professor,  
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy,  
Rutgers University



**Pharmacy Enterprise  
Collaboratives**



# Pharmacy Enterprise Ambulatory Care/Transitions of Care Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Ambulatory Care Collaborative aims to provide patient centric medication therapy to the communities we serve to foster health promotion.*

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## **Mission Statement**

To ensure that patients treated outside of the acute care facilities of RWJBarnabas Health received optimal medication management.

## **Membership**

**Chair:** Assistant Vice President Clinical Pharmacy Services

**Members:** Director of Pharmacy and Director of Nursing at RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Ambulatory Care Specialists from Ambulatory Care Division, Clinical Pharmacy Specialists from the Acute Care Service Line and Integrated Service Line

## **Meetings**

The Ambulatory Care Collaborative shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the chair

## **How We Accomplish Our Mission**

The Ambulatory Care Collaborative accomplishes their mission by connecting with the patients and communities we serve to understand specific barriers to optimal health. Pharmacists that comprise the Ambulatory Care Collaborative are equipped to help manage not only individual patient care but also broader population health initiatives. Members collaborate with other providers to ensure the continuum of care, utilize resources such as pharmacy residents and students to foster a learning environment, and broaden the reach of the division to a wider population. The collaborative tracks interventions, provides education to providers, monitors progress of patients and initiatives, and reports successes and learning opportunities with other providers to improve the health of the patients we serve.



**Jennifer Sternbach, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services  
Chair of Ambulatory Care Collaborative



**Jessica Bente-Miller, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP**

Clinical Specialist, Geriatrics, PGY2 Geriatrics Residency Program Director, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Christine Dimaculangan, PharmD, BCACP**

Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



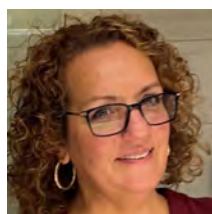
**Laurie Eckert, PharmD**

Medication optimization pharmacist, RWJ University Hospital



**Alyssa Gallipani, PharmD, BCACP**

Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director, Clinical Assistant Professor, FDU



**Donna Grando, PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Pharmacist, Population Health



**Pooja Le, PharmD, CSP**

Certified Specialty Pharmacist, Clinical Specialist, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Ammie Patel, PharmD, BCACP**

Ambulatory Care Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



**Mary Pulidore, BSN, RN**

Director of Nursing, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Cristina Santos, PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Specialist, Internal Medicine, Clara Maass Medical Center



**Ronald Simbulan, RPh**

Director of Pharmacy, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



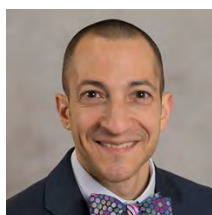
**Lalitha Sukumar, PharmD**

Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group



**Marissa Uricchio, PharmD, BCCP**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist-Diabetes Management, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Lucio Volino, PharmD**

Clinical Pharmacist Retail Pharmacy Network and Clinical Associate Professor Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers University



**Shesha Desai, Pharm D, BC-ADM**

Diabetes Educator, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



**Patricia Hafitz, RPh, CACP**

Anticoagulation Pharmacist, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton

# Pharmacy Enterprise Critical Care Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Critical Care Pharmacy Collaborative is responsible for ensuring the continuum of care for critically ill patients throughout our network. The collaborative consists of Critical Care pharmacy specialists who take pride in enhancing medication management including the standardization of order sets, implementing best practices and formulary considerations as a means to promote medication safety and quality patient care. In addition to medication management and clinical expertise, the collaborative takes special interest in promoting student and resident education. Members of this collaborative are experienced in clinical research and generate numerous publications and professional presentations each year.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Critical Care Clinical Specialist, RWJ Hamilton, Clinical Professor and Clinical Director, Simulation, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Co-Chair:** Critical Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Critical Care Clinical Specialists, PGY2 Critical Care Residents

## Meetings

The Critical Care Pharmacy Collaborative meets monthly

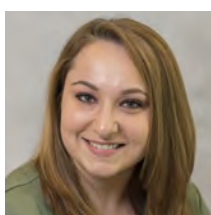
## Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as subject matter experts in Critical Care pharmacotherapy by providing recommendations to a variety of pharmacy and multidisciplinary committees at both the system and local levels.
- Standardize best practices in relation to management of critically ill patients across the enterprise.
- Assist in order set creation and review based on best evidence for our electronic health record.
- Review and make recommendations for policies and procedures relating to critical care across the enterprise.
- Provides recommendations to the Clinical Pharmacy Council and Sterile Products Collaborative regarding optimization of practice.
- Develop and execute research and quality improvement projects.
- Promote and share educational opportunities for pharmacy residents, students and pharmacists across the enterprise.



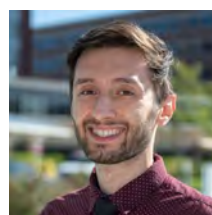
**Liza Barbarello Andrews, PharmD,  
RPh, BCCCP, BCPS, CHSE**

Clinical Professor and Clinical Director, Simulation, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton, Co-Chair of Critical Care Collaborative



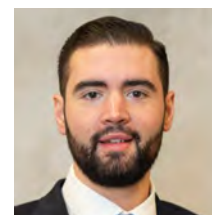
**Michelle Mercadante,  
PharmD, BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center  
Co-Chair of Critical Care Collaborative



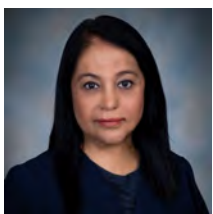
**Francesco Ciummo,  
PharmD, BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Alexander Clark,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Clinical Services, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



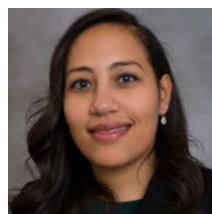
**Deepali Dixit, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, RWJ University Hospital, Clinical Associate Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers



**Amanpreet Dulku,  
PharmD**

PGY2 Pharmacy Resident, Community Medical Center



**Yasmine Elbaga,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus



**Jessica Hu, PharmD**

Critical Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, RWJ University Hospital Somerset, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy Rutgers University



**Soo Kang, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, Clara Maas Medical Center



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy



**Carolyn Lucchese,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Clinical Pharmacy, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



**Sonali Maniar, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**Ewelina Pelczar, BA,  
PharmD**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, Critical Care Clinical Specialist, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



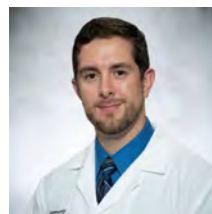
**Julie Saleh, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, Monmouth Medical Center, Clinical Associate Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



**Jesse Sullivan, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, Critical Care PGY2 Residency Program Director, Community Medical Center, Clinical Assistant Professor, FDU



**Andrew Vassallo,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**

Critical Care Clinical Specialist, PGY1 Program Residency Director, Community Medical Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Emergency Department Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Emergency Department Collaborative aims to promote safe and effective medication use in the Emergency Departments of RWJBarnabas Health.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Emergency Department Clinical Specialist, Clara Maass Medical Center

**Co-Chair:** Emergency Medicine Clinical Specialist, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Director of Pharmacy Services, Emergency Department Pharmacy Specialists and Clinical Coordinator from Acute Care Service Line

## Meetings

The Emergency Department Collaborative shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the chair

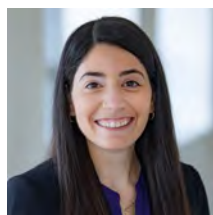
## How We Accomplish Our Mission

The Emergency Department Collaborative accomplishes their mission by ensuring high quality medication administration, promoting safe medication usage, enhancing education and research to allow for advancement of public health and educational programs to all levels of health care providers. The collaborative works with their local emergency medicine physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals to align appropriate medication therapy with emergency medication initiatives and national quality indicators. They work to refine the electronic medication ordering system to facilitate appropriate prescribing in the emergency departments. They provide recommendations to the Clinical Pharmacy Council regarding management of shortages for emergency medications. They design, execute, and report emergency medicine quality improvement research.



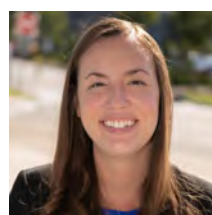
**Brandon Chen, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Clinical Specialist, Emergency  
Medicine, Clara Maass Medical  
Center  
Chair of Emergency Department  
Collaborative



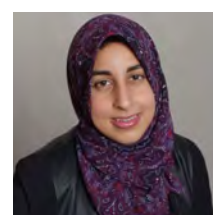
**Dana Serao, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCEMP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Specialist, Newark Beth Israel  
Medical Center  
Co-Chair of Emergency Department  
Collaborative



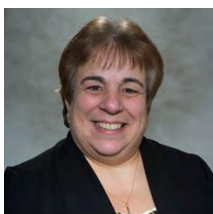
**Angela Antonello,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Pharmacist Specialist,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical  
Center



**Nadia Awad, PharmD,  
MS, BCPS**

Clinical Specialist, Emergency  
Medicine, RWJ University  
Hospital



**Suzanne Caravella,  
PharmD, BCPS, RPh**

Clinical Coordinator, RWJ  
University Hospital Hamilton



**Sandra Eid, PharmD**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Specialist, Community Medical  
Center



**Yasmine Elbaga,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator,  
Monmouth Medical Center  
Southern Campus



**Michelle Gardiner,  
PharmD, BCGP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Specialist, Monmouth Medical  
Center



**Matthew Lamb, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Pharmacy Specialist, Jersey City  
Medical Center



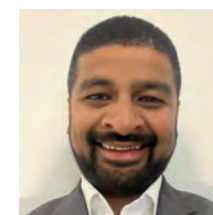
**Carolyn Lucchese,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Clinical  
Pharmacy, RWJ University  
Hospital Rahway



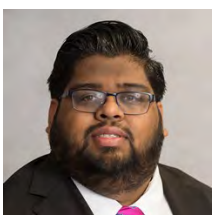
**May Nguyen, PharmD,  
BCGP, BCCCP**

Emergency Medicine and Transitions  
of Care Pharmacist, RWJ University  
Hospital Somerset, Clinical  
Assistant Professor, Emergency  
Medicine & Transitions of Care,  
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy,  
Rutgers University



**Anish Patel, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Emergency Room Pharmacist,  
RWJ University Hospital



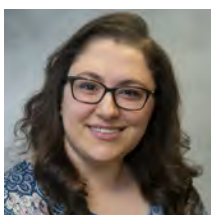
**Mitesh M Patel, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy  
PGY1 Residency Program  
Director, Clara Maass Medical  
Center



**Ewelina Pelczar, BA,  
PharmD**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario  
School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, Critical  
Care Clinical Specialist, RWJ University  
Hospital Hamilton



**Marina Pittiglio, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical  
Specialist, Community Medical  
Center



**Jennifer Sternbach,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Clinical Pharmacy  
Services, Corporate Pharmacy



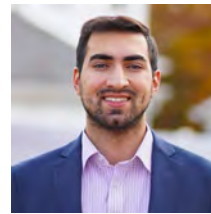
**Christine Tricarico,  
PharmD, MBA, FACHE**

Administrative Director, Inpatient  
Clinical Operations, Children's  
Specialized Hospital



**Joe Voelkel, RPh**

Assistant Vice President, Retail  
Pharmacy Network



**Mohil Trivedi, PharmD**

PGY2 Emergency Medicine  
Pharmacy Resident, Rutgers  
University, RWJ University  
Hospital

**Joss Delaune, PharmD**

PGY2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy  
Resident, Rutgers University,  
RWJ University Hospital

**Gregory Kelly, PharmD, MS, BCCCP**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Residency  
Program Director, PGY2 Emergency  
Medicine, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
Rutgers

**Mohil Trivedi**

PGY2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy  
Resident, Rutgers University,  
RWJ University Hospital

**Kim Walsh, RPh, MBA**

Director of Pharmacy Services,  
RWJBH Behavioral Health Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Infectious Diseases Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Infectious Diseases Collaborative is responsible for promoting the judicious use of antimicrobials throughout the health system to optimize patient outcomes and limit adverse effects. The collaborative garners consensus among content experts regarding design and implementation of strategies to improve antimicrobial use. Evidence-based medicine and rigorous literature evaluation drive the decision-making process. The collaborative supports the Clinical Pharmacy Council and coordinates with both system-wide and local multidisciplinary committees in order to fulfill its responsibilities.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Pharmacy Systems Integration Analyst, Newark Beth Isreal Medical Center

**Co-Chair:** Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration and Clinical Pharmacy Specialists from Acute Care Service Line

## Meetings

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the chair

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Serves as infectious disease pharmacotherapy subject matter experts by providing antimicrobial use recommendations to a variety of pharmacy and multidisciplinary committees at both the system and local levels
- Collaborates with Microbiology to enhance culture identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing and reporting
- Refines the electronic medication ordering system in collaboration with Information Technology to facilitate appropriate antimicrobial selection, dosing and duration
- Advocates for antimicrobial stewardship throughout the continuum of care
- Develops educational materials regarding antimicrobial stewardship and antimicrobial resistance
- Provides recommendations to the Clinical Pharmacy Council regarding antimicrobial formulary decisions
- Designs, executes and reports antimicrobial stewardship quality improvement research
- Tracks and monitors antimicrobial stewardship outcome metrics
- Develops strategies to ensure compliance with antimicrobial stewardship regulatory requirements
- Serves as a representative on the system-wide Infectious Disease Multidisciplinary Collaborative





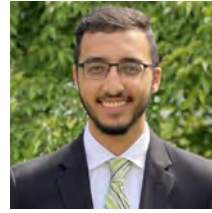
**Steven Smoke, PharmD,  
BCIDP**

Pharmacy Systems Integration  
Analyst, Newark Beth Isreal  
Medical Center  
Chair of Infectious Diseases  
Collaborative



**Nicole Leonida, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP**

Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial  
Stewardship Clinical Pharmacy  
Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center  
Co-Chair of Infectious Diseases  
Collaborative



**Mahmoud Aly, PharmD**

Antimicrobial Stewardship/  
Infectious Diseases Clinical  
Pharmacist, RWJ University  
Hospital Rahway



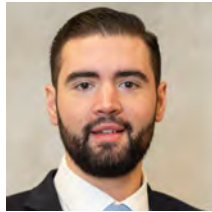
**Luigi Brunetti, PharmD,  
PhD, BCPS, BCGP**

Clinical Pharmacist, Internal  
Medicine, RWJ University Hospital  
Somerset, Clinical Associate  
Professor, Internal Medicine, Ernest  
Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers  
University



**Suzanne Caravella,  
PharmD, BCPS, RPh**

Clinical Coordinator, RWJ  
University Hospital Hamilton



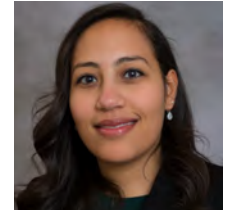
**Alexander Clark,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of  
Pharmacy Clinical Services,  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Ashita Debnath, BS,  
PharmD, BCIDP**

Infectious Disease Clinical  
Specialist, Community  
Medical Center



**Yasmine Elbaga,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator,  
Monmouth Medical Center Southern  
Campus



**Polly Jen, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP**

Assistant Director of Clinical  
Services, Newark Beth Isreal Medical  
Center



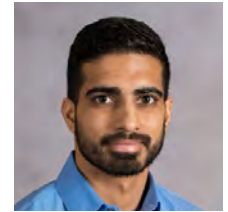
**Henry Leach, PharmD,  
BCPP**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY2 Psychiatric  
Residency Program Director, RWJBH  
Behavioral Health Center



**Leah Leszcynski,  
PharmD**

Clinical Pharmacist,  
Monmouth Medical Center Southern  
Campus



**Navaneeth Narayanan,  
PharmD, MPH, BCIDP**

Infectious Disease Specialist, RWJ  
University Hospital, Clinical  
Assistant Professor Ernest Mario  
School of Pharmacy, Rutgers  
University



**Karan Raja, PharmD,  
BCIDP, BCPS, AAHIVP**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist,  
Infectious Disease, Clara Maass  
Medical Center



**Monica Shah, PharmD**

Antibiotic Stewardship Clinical  
Specialist, Monmouth Medical  
Center



**Jennifer Sternbach,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Clinical Pharmacy  
Services, Corporate Pharmacy



---

Elizabeth Stone,  
PharmD, BCGP, AE-C

Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical  
Specialist, Newark Beth Israel  
Medical Center



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Arsheena Yassin,  
PharmD, BCIDP

Pharmacy Specialist Infectious  
Disease, RWJ University  
Hospital

# Pharmacy Enterprise Informatics Collaborative

*The purpose of the RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Informatics Collaborative is to standardize, translate and implement clinical and operational technology initiatives affecting medications throughout the healthcare system. The collaboration shares best practices and will bring forth pharmacy informatics recommendations to the applicable Pharmacy Enterprise Councils for approval.*

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## Mission Statement

To ensure that any medication-related technologies across the healthcare continuum are clinically, financially and operationally leveraged to current quality standards, clinical guidelines and regulations and optimized to improve patient care, population health outcomes and systems interoperability.

## Membership

**Chair:** Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration

**Members:** Director of Pharmacy Services and Assistant Director of Operations from the Acute Care Service Lines, Director of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Senior Pharmacy Systems Analyst/IT Pharmacists/RN/pharmacy biller/analysts/coordinators from the Acute Care Service Lines, Senior Pharmacy Reimbursement Specialist, Pharmacy Billing Specialist, Corporate Systems Integration Pharmacist, Corporate 340B Director and 340B Analysts.

## Meetings

The Pharmacy Informatics Collaborative shall meet bi-monthly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Chair, but not less than quarterly.

## How We Accomplish Our Mission

The Pharmacy Informatics Collaborative accomplishes our objectives by leveraging automation and technology resources to support continuing compliance and patient safety. The resources include but are not limited to the enterprise clinical information systems (ECIS), smart infusion pump software, automated dispensing cabinets, inventory management software, drug diversion analytics, barcode label standardization & maintenance, 340B software, financial, business intelligence and healthcare analytics reporting tools.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Proactively identifies operational efficiencies to fulfill our purpose and mission
- Optimizes automated dispensing cabinets and medication access functionality and inventory management
- Standardizes formulary and charge description master (CDM) request process for additions, deletions and changes
- Provides pharmacy informatics expertise and recommendations on existing and new technologies
- Develops and implements system-wide medication charge reconciliation initiatives



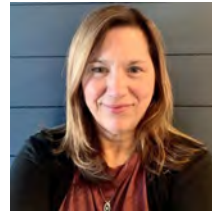
**Ellen Secaras, MBA,  
RPh**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration, Corporate Pharmacy  
Chair of Informatics Collaborative



**Linda Allen, RPh**

IT systems Pharmacist,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Susan Apisa-Fischetti**

Pharmacy Biller, RWJ University Hospital



**Angelina Bayruns, CPhT**

340B Analyst, Corporate Pharmacy



**Brian Bishop, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Regional Senior Pharmacy Systems Analyst, Monmouth Medical Center



**Sheryl Darville, PharmD**

Information Technology Pharmacist, Jersey City Medical Center



**Daniel Fung, PharmD**

Pharmacy Informatics Specialist, Community Medical Center



**Moises Junchaya,  
PharmD**

Pharmacy Systems Administrator, RWJ University Hospital



**Caitlin Karabin**

Pharmacy Billing Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy



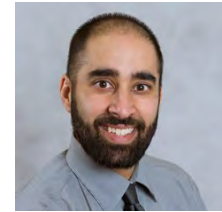
**Tammy Kupper, CPhT**

340B Analyst, Corporate Pharmacy



**Fuwing Lee, RPh, MPA,  
MSHI**

Clinical Pharmacist Specialist, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



**Kabeer Mago, PharmD,  
RPh**

Systems Integration Pharmacist, Corporate Pharmacy



**Edmund Manger, RPh,  
MAS**

Informatics Pharmacist, Clara Maass Medical Center



**Bryan McCormick, CPhT,  
MBA**

Corporate Director 340B Program, Corporate Pharmacy



**Hwan "Mike" Namkung,  
PharmD**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Operations, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



**Irina Polotskiy, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



George Romanos, MBA

IT Specialist, Clara Maass Medical Center



Steven Smoke, PharmD, BCIDP

Pharmacy Systems Integration Analyst, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Eliana Solis, CPhT, CSPT

Pharmacy Purchasing Coordinator/ Pyxis Administrator, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



Berna Sweeney, CPhT

Pharmacy Business Manager, Corporate Pharmacy



Reza Tonkaboni, BS Pharm

Pharmacy Coordinator, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



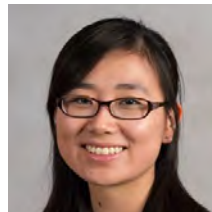
Abelardo Viray, PharmD

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Operations, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



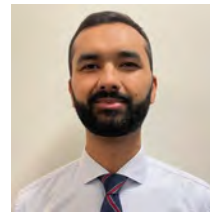
Francisco Vila, PharmD, CSP

Director of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



Stephanie Wei, PharmD, BCPS

Pharmacy Systems Administrator, RWJ University Hospital Somerset



Sukhvinder Singh, PharmD, MBA

Applications Manager, Epic Willow

Kimberly Zimmermann, PharmD

Systems Analyst at RWJBH Behavioral Health Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Medication Management Collaborative

*The purpose of the RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Medication Management Collaborative is to create consistent, aligned Policy and Procedure documents across all facilities. These policies will be regulatory compliant as related to Department of Health, New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, the Joint Commission, DNV GL, Drug Enforcement Agency, Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and other local, state and federal agencies.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Pharmacy

**Members:** Directors of Pharmacy across the acute care service line, Children's Specialized Hospital, RWJBH Behavioral Health Center, CINJ and Specialty Pharmacist at RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Investigate and identify opportunities for standardization of policies and procedures.
- Update, merge existing or create new documents to minimize policy and procedure variation across sites.
- Ensure policies and procedures meet current regulations and guidance.
- Ensure policies and procedures are designed to be successfully implemented and followed.



Jodie Skayhan, PharmD

Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Pharmacy



James Barna, PharmD, RPh

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital



Gary Del Piano, PharmD

Director of Pharmacy Services, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus



Heather DeSanto, PharmD, BCSCP

Director of Pharmacy Services, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



Maria DeVivo, PharmD, MPA, BCPS, BCACP

Director of Pharmacy Services, Jersey City Medical Center



Lynne Goldstein, RPh, MBA

Director of Pharmacy Services, Community Medical Center



Sharon Greasheimer, MPA, PharmD, RPh

Director of Pharmacy, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



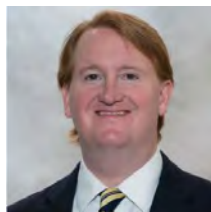
Michael P. Kane, RPh, BCOP

Executive Director, Oncology Pharmacy Services, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



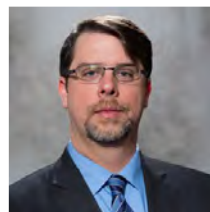
Pooja Le, PharmD, CSP

Certified Specialty Pharmacist, Clinical Specialist, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



Jonathan Margolin, MHA, RPh, ACE

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



Scott Mathis, PharmD

Regional Director of Pharmacy Services, Monmouth Medical Center Campuses



Mona Philips, RPh, MAS

Director of Pharmacy Services, Clara Maass Medical Center



Irina Polotskiy, PharmD, BCPS

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



Christine Tricarico, PharmD, MBA, FACHE

Administrative Director, Inpatient Clinical Operations, Children's Specialized Hospital



Stuart Vigdor, BS Pharm, RPh

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital Somerset



Kim Walsh, RPh, MBA

Director of Pharmacy Operations, RWJBH Behavioral Health Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Oncology Collaborative

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Oncology Pharmacy Collaborative is to promote the most appropriate and cost-effective, evidence-based use and administration of chemotherapy, novel therapeutic agents, and other medical treatments or supportive care to ensure the highest quality and safety standards for patients undergoing care for cancer and cancer-related diseases.

## Membership

**Chair:** Executive Director Oncology Pharmacy Services, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

**Co-Chair:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Director of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Director Pharmacy Operations, Assistant Director Pharmacy Operations, Pharmacy Operations Manager, IV Room Supervisors and Oncology Pharmacists from the Acute Care Service Line

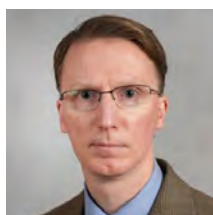
## Meetings

The Oncology Collaborative shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the chair.

## How We Accomplish Our Mission

The Oncology Pharmacy Collaborative is a subcommittee of The Oncology P&T Committee and the Director's Council. The Collaborative assists the Rutgers Cancer Institute as the oncology service line for RWJ Barnabas Health enterprise by evaluating the quality and safety of the delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients with the diagnosis of cancer or cancer-related diseases. It is a single-disciplinary committee that is responsible for the assigned process of medication formulary review and contributing to the development of policies, procedures, and guidelines for medication management of cancer-related therapies within Rutgers Cancer Institute and RWJ Barnabas. All collaborative meetings are confidential. All functions are directed by and reported back to the main The Oncology P&T Committee and the Director's Council.





**Michael P. Kane, RPh,  
BCOP**

Executive Director, Oncology  
Pharmacy Services, Rutgers  
Cancer Institute of New Jersey  
Chair of Oncology  
Collaborative



**Doug DeStefano,  
PharmD**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Pharmacy  
Operations  
Co-chair of Oncology  
Collaborative



**Olubunmi Afolabi,  
PharmD, BCSCP**

Sterile Products Supervisor,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical  
Center



**David Awad, PharmD,  
BCOP**

Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology,  
RWJ University Hospital



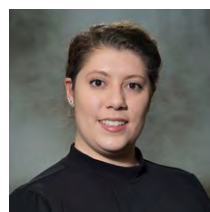
**Isabel Caratenuto,  
PharmD**

Oncology Pharmacy Specialist,  
RWJ University Hospital  
Somerset



**Abiola Emmanuel, RPh**

Lead Oncology Clinical Staff  
Pharmacist, Newark Beth Israel  
Medical Center



**Anne Ficalora, PharmD,  
BCSCP**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy  
Services, Community Medical  
Center



**Elizabeth M. George,  
PharmD, BCOP**

Pharmacist, RWJ University  
Hospital



**John Hoffman, PharmD**

Assistant Director Pharmacy,  
Operations, Cooperman  
Barnabas Medical Center



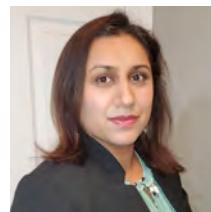
**Jessica Koerner, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Integrated  
Pharmacy Services, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Fuwing Lee, RPh, MPA,  
MSHI**

Clinical Pharmacist Specialist,  
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New  
Jersey



**Jigisha K. Patel, PharmD**

Oncology Pharmacy Specialist,  
RWJ University Hospital  
Somerset



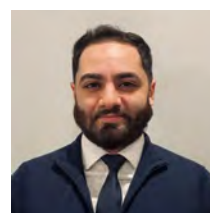
**Marcel Redhead,  
PharmD**

Sterile Products Supervisor, Newark  
Beth Israel Medical Center



**Denise Saul, RPh**

Oncology Clinical Specialist,  
Newark Beth Israel Medical  
Center



**Muhammad Shahid,  
PharmD, BCOP**

Pharmacy Oncology Supervisor,  
Jersey City Medical Center



**Ronald Simbulan, RPh**

Director of Pharmacy, RWJBarnabas  
Health Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



**Simran Singh, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Pharmacy Operations Supervisor,  
Clara Maass Medical Center



**Jodie Skayhan, PharmD**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy  
Operations, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Randolph Sturgill,  
PharmD**

Chief Oncology Pharmacist,  
Pharmacist In Charge,  
Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer  
Center



**Kathleen Tondo, PharmD**

IV Supervisor,  
Monmouth Medical Center

**Susan Bruno, RPH**  
Oncology Pharmacist, RWJ University  
Hospital Hamilton

**Ashley Finamore, PharmD, BCOP**  
Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist, Rutgers  
Cancer Institute of New Jersey

**Christian Gabel, PharmD**  
Oncology Pharmacist, Manager Research  
Pharmacy, Rutgers Cancer Institute of  
New Jersey

**Martin William Hesselbacher II, PharmD**  
Lead Pharmacist, Sterile Products  
Supervisor, Monmouth Medical Center  
Southern Campus

**Esther Huang, PharmD, BCOP, BCPS**  
Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist-Heme/BMT,  
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

**Hirra Khan, PharmD**  
Sterile Products Supervisor, Clara Maass  
Medical Center

**Jonathan Lalli, PharmD, BCOP**  
Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist-Heme,  
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

**Jessica Stemple, PharmD, BCOP**  
Clinical Pharmacist, Specialist  
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

# Pharmacy Enterprise

## Perioperative Pharmacy Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Perioperative Pharmacy Collaborative is a diverse group of pharmacy professionals with skills, knowledge and experience in acute and ambulatory perioperative services. The collaborative is charged with sharing best practices and optimizing care across the IDN, advocating for safety and standardization in clinical and operational practices, collaborating with other disciplines to provide consultation on development of drug libraries, and developing best practices for diversion minimization and auditing.*

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### Membership

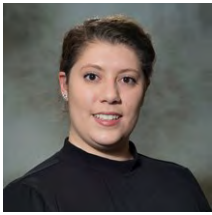
**Members:** Perioperative Pharmacy Clinical Specialists, Pharmacy Directors and Assistant Directors, Operations Supervisors, Clinical Coordinators, Perioperative Pharmacy Technicians, Corporate AVP Integrated Pharmacy Services

### Meetings

Meetings are held on an as needed basis to collaborate on key initiatives.

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Sharing of best practices
- Safety initiatives around medication administration in the Perioperative Areas
- Billing and charging monitoring
- Best practices for diversion control and auditing
- Standardization of IV syringe pump for adults and pediatrics and anesthesia library
- System-wide MUE's for OR specific medications
- Development of discipline specific education library for RWJBH Pharmacy Enterprise
- System perioperative services shortage management
- Formulary standardization for perioperative areas



**Anne Ficalora, PharmD,  
BCSCP**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Services, Community Medical Center



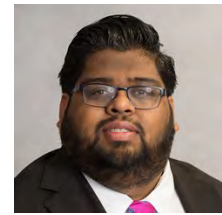
**Timothy Jacisin,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Specialist, Perioperative Services, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy



**Mitesh M Patel, PharmD,  
BCCCP**

Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy PGY1 Residency Program Director, Clara Maass Medical Center



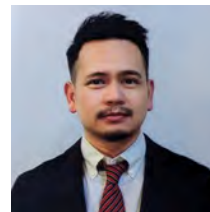
**Mona Philips, RPh, MAS**

Director of Pharmacy Services, Clara Maass Medical Center



**Irina Polotskiy, PharmD,  
BCPS**

Director of Pharmacy Services, RWJ University Hospital at Rahway



**Abelardo Viray, PharmD**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Operations, Trinitas Regional Medical Center

**Kenneth Hau, PharmD**  
Pharmacist, RWJ University Hospital

**Neul Ju, PharmD, BCPS**  
Clinical Generalist, Clara Maass Medical Center

**Frangiskos Lambrinos, RPh, MBA**  
Assistant Director of Operations, Monmouth Medical Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Pediatric Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Pediatric Collaborative aims to standardize, enhance and support pediatric pharmacy practice across the health system.*

---

## **Mission Statement**

To promote safe and effective medication use for every pediatric patient treated in the RWJBarnabas Health system.

## **Membership**

**Chair:** Administrative Director, Inpatient Clinical Operations, Children's Specialized Hospital

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Administrative Clinical Leadership from the Acute Care Service Line, Pediatric Pharmacy Specialists from the Acute Care Service Line, and Clinical Pharmacy Specialists from the Acute Care Service Line

## **Meetings**

The Pharmacy Pediatric Collaborative shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Chair.

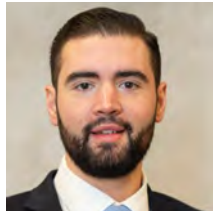
## **How We Accomplish Our Mission**

The Pharmacy Pediatric Collaborative accomplishes the mission by sharing the expertise of pediatric pharmacy specialists through the development of guidelines, protocols and educational materials for all sites in the system. The pediatric collaborative works with pediatric leadership, local pediatric departments, and other healthcare professionals to ensure that medication use is evidence-based and aligned with national quality indicators. They work to optimize the electronic medication ordering system to facilitate appropriate prescribing, preparation, dispensing, and administration of medications to pediatric patients across the health system. They serve as the pediatric pharmacotherapy subject matter experts by providing recommendations to a variety of pharmacy and multidisciplinary committees at both the system and local level, and advocate for the recognition of the patient-specific needs of the pediatric population. The Pediatric Collaborative is a subcommittee of the Clinical Pharmacy Council. They provide communication surround medication shortages aimed to guide care and support the pediatric service line.



**Christine Tricarico, PharmD, MBA, FACHE**

Administrative Director, Inpatient Clinical Operations, Children's Specialized Hospital  
Chair of Pediatric Collaborative



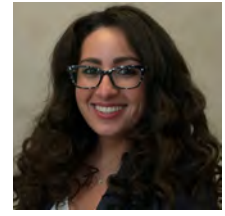
**Alexander Clark, PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Clinical Services, Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Amanda Clouser, PharmD**

Pediatric Clinical Specialist, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**Jessica Gerges, PharmD**

Clinical Generalist, Clara Maass Medical Center



**Karen Kisty, PharmD, BCPS**

Manager of Pharmacy Services, Children's Specialized Hospital



**Jessica Lise, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS**

Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist, RWJ University Hospital



**Rachel Meyers, PharmD, BCPPS**

Rutgers Faculty and Pediatric Clinical Specialist, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Sandy Moreau, PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director, Jersey City Medical Center



**Mitesh M Patel, PharmD, BCCCP**

Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy PGY1 Residency Program Director, Clara Maass Medical Center



**Jennifer Sternbach, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy

# Pharmacy Enterprise

## Pharmacy Buyers Collaborative

*Prescription drug costs, shortages, and access to medications continue to plague hospital and retail pharmacies. Often due to shortcomings in production, quality assurance, scarcity of active pharmaceutical ingredient, or increased market utilization, medication shortages have disrupted pharmaceutical supply-chain workflow for over a decade. With limited relief on the horizon and generic manufacturers leaving the market due to narrow profitability, inventory management is of paramount concern for pharmacies. In an effort to mitigate provider or patient impact, RWJBH Pharmacy Buyers have employed best in class buying practices through systematic purchasing processes and enhanced communication. Additionally, while managing unrelenting pharmaceutical supply chain disruptions, Pharmacy Buyers navigated and supported a health system wide group purchasing organization (GPO) conversion, affirming contract price enactment with wholesalers and satisfying rebate thresholds.*

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### Membership

**Chair:** Corporate Director 340B Program

**Members:** System Director Pharmaceutical Procurement, Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy Buyers, 340B Analysts, Pharmacy Purchasing Coordinators and IT Specialist

### Meetings

The Pharmacy Buyers Collaborative meets virtually on a monthly basis

### Collaborative Purpose

The Pharmacy Buyers Collaborative initiated in 2017 as a semi-annual meeting for all RWJBarnabas Health pharmaceutical procurement stakeholders. Corporate Pharmacy identified value in facilitating increased communication and collaboration between key stakeholders within the health system. Therefore, to supplement annual meetings and other pharmacy enterprise collaborative efforts, the collaborative added brief monthly calls to address high-ticket items.

During 2023 the collaborative was instrumental in facilitating a smooth GPO conversion, ensuring a high level of contract compliance for the initial transition of products and identifying wholesaler contract discrepancies. Additionally, the collaborative continued its execution of a centralized hub for high dollar, high volume, shorted, and unique medications through RWJBH Consolidated Pharmacy Services. Continuing its goal for 2024, the collaborative remains resolute in maintaining lean, cost effective inventory processes while ensuring pharmaceutical supply chain interruptions do not clinically affect RWJBarnabas Health patients.



**Bryan McCormick, CPhT,  
MBA**

Corporate Director 340B  
Program, Corporate Pharmacy  
Chair of Pharmacy Buyers  
Collaborative



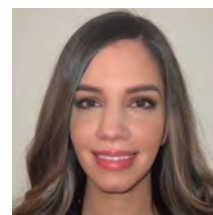
**Angelina Bayruns, CPhT**

340B Analyst, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Myriam Canuto, CPhT**

Pharmacy Purchasing Agent,  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Danielle Cortes, CPhT**

Inventory Analyst, RWJ  
University Hospital



**Cindy Cragle**

Pharmacy Inventory Analyst,  
RWJ University Hospital at  
Somerset



**Luchi Doyle**

Pharmacy Buyer, Monmouth  
Medical Center Southern  
Campus



**Lisa Freid**

Pharmacy Technician  
Coordinator, Clara Maass  
Medical Center



**Robin Henson, CPhT**

Pharmacy Buyer, Monmouth  
Medical Center



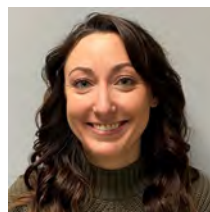
**Joanna King, CPHT**

Pharmacy Inventory Control  
Specialist, Newark Beth Israel  
Medical Center



**Tammy Kupper, CPhT**

340B Analyst, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Kara LaFontaine, CPhT**

Pharmacy Buyer, Community Medical  
Center



**Henry Leach, PharmD,  
BCPP**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY2 Psychiatric  
Residency Program Director, RWJBH  
Behavioral Health Center



**Rahul Nakrani, MBA,  
MS**

340B Analyst,  
Corporate Pharmacy



**Fernando Oliveira, BA  
Biology**

System Director of Pharmaceutical  
Procurement, RWJBarnabas Health  
Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy  
Services



**Kimberly Parris-Rock,  
CPhT**

Purchasing Coordinator,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical  
Center



**Elizabeth Posada, CPhT**

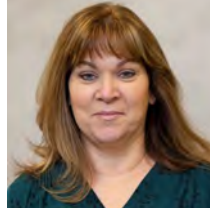
340B Program Coordinator/Pharmacy  
Buyer, RWJ University Hospital





**George Romanos, MBA**

IT Specialist, Clara Maass  
Medical Center



**Barbara Sanders**

Pharmacy Buyer, Clara Maass  
Medical Center



**Teaka Singh, CPhT-Adv**

340B Coordinator, Pharmacy  
Buyer, Jersey City Medical  
Center



**Eliana Solis, CPhT,  
CSPT**

Pharmacy Purchasing  
Coordinator/ Pyxis  
Administrator, RWJ University  
Hospital Rahway



**Kathy Stocker, CPhT**

Pharmacy Buyer, RWJ  
University Hospital Hamilton

**Rafe Fisher, Jr.**

Inventory Technician, Newark Beth Israel Medical  
Center

**Colleen McLaughlin, CPhT**

Pharmacy Buyer, Monmouth Medical Center  
Southern Campus

# Pharmacy Enterprise Psychiatric Collaborative

*The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise Psychiatric Pharmacy Collaborative is responsible for ensuring the continuum of care for psychiatric patients throughout our network. The collaborative consists of neuropsychiatric pharmacy specialists who take pride in enhancing medication management including the standardization of order sets and formulary considerations as means to promote medication safety and quality patient care. In addition to medication management, the collaborative takes special interest in promoting students and residency education and networking opportunities within our network.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Clinical Coordinator, PGY2 Psychiatric Residency Program Director, RWJBH Behavioral Health Center

**Members:** Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Assistant Director of Operations, Assistant Director of Pharmacy Clinical Services, Clinical Neuropsychiatric Pharmacy Specialist and Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacists

## Meetings

The Psychiatric Pharmacy Collaborative shall meet quarterly or as otherwise deemed necessary by the chair

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as subject matter experts in psychiatric pharmacotherapy by providing recommendations to a variety of pharmacy and multidisciplinary committees at both the system and local levels.
- Standardize psychiatric pharmacotherapy across the enterprise.
- Assist in order set creation and review based on best evidence for our electronic health record.
- Review and make recommendations for policies and procedures relating to mental health across the enterprise.
- Provides recommendations to the Clinical Pharmacy Council regarding new therapies in mental health.
- Develop and execute research and quality improvement projects in psychiatry.
- Develop and standardize strategies related to psychiatric medications and regulatory requirements.
- Promote and share educational opportunities for pharmacy residents across the enterprise.



**Henry Leach, PharmD,  
BCPP**

Clinical Coordinator, PGY2  
Psychiatric Residency Program  
Director, RWJBH Behavioral  
Health Center  
Chair of Psychiatric Collaborative



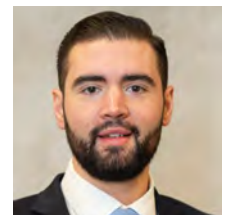
**Dehali Bandyopadhyay,  
PharmD, MS**

Assistant Director of Operations,  
Newark Beth Israel Medical  
Center



**Leo Batongbakal,  
PharmD, BCPP**

Psychiatry Clinical Pharmacy  
Specialist, Jersey City Medical  
Center



**Alexander Clark,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Assistant Director of  
Pharmacy Clinical Services,  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center



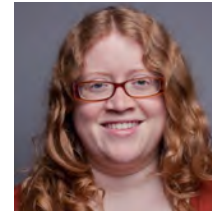
**Nicole Daniel, PharmD,  
BCPP**

Clinical Neuropsychiatric Pharmacy  
Specialist, Clara Maass Medical  
Center



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**

Corporate Assistant Vice  
President of Integrated  
Pharmacy Services, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Megan Maroney,  
PharmD, BCPP**

Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist,  
Monmouth Medical Center, Clinical  
Associate Professor, Ernest Mario  
School of Pharmacy, Rutgers

# Pharmacy Residency Ambassadors Collaborative

*The purpose of the RWJBarnabas Health Residency Ambassadors is to promote the RWJBarnabas Health pharmacy residency programs through various marketing channels including residency showcases and social media.*

*The mission of the Residency Ambassador is to demonstrate and embody the culture of our organization and introduce prospective residents to our philosophy from the first encounter.*

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## Who We Are

The Residency Ambassadors are a group of passionate teammates who have trained in our system and chose to remain or return to the enterprise for their career. They come from diverse backgrounds and have demonstrated exceptional communication and leadership skills.

## How We Accomplish Our Mission


The Ambassadors are able to meet their mission through a variety of creative techniques including webinars, social media postings, outreach and physical representation at residency showcases. Their ability to match a prospective candidate with the facilities that would best fit their needs allows for enhanced recruitment.


## Duties and Responsibilities

The Residency Ambassadors work to promote the RWJBarnabas Health Enterprise through:

- Facilitate presentations and information tables at career, college and residency showcases
- Coordination of the annual RWJBarnabas Health Residency Annual Report
- Develop content for the enterprise social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram
- Serve as role models and leaders for current and prospective residents
- Participate in special events as needed including webinars and community outreach
- Manage and update the Pharmacy Enterprise website
- Create and implement unique marketing material tailored to attracting high caliber candidates

 [facebook.com/rwjbhpharmacy](https://facebook.com/rwjbhpharmacy)

 @rwjbhpharmacy

 @rwjbhpharmacy



**Angela Antonello, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacist Specialist, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Jessica Bente-Miller, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP**

Clinical Specialist, Geriatrics, PGY2 Geriatrics Residency Program Director, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Morgan Esordi, PharmD, BCPS**

Staff Clinical Pharmacist, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



**Alyssa Gallipani, PharmD, BCACP**

Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director, Clinical Assistant Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University



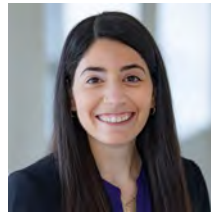
**Tim Jacisin, PharmD, BCACP**

Clinical Specialist, Perioperative Services, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



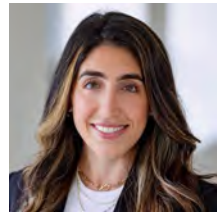
**Nicole Leonida, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP**

Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center



**Dana Serao, PharmD, BCPS, BCEMP**

Emergency Medicine Clinical Specialist, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**Kayla Torppey, PharmD, BCPS**

Internal Medicine Clinical Specialist, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

# Pharmacy Enterprise Sterile Products Collaborative

*The Pharmacy Enterprise Sterile Products Collaborative is responsible for maintaining compliance in both USP 797 and USP 800 federal regulations which govern compounding of all sterile products.*

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## Membership

**Chair:** Sterile Products Supervisor, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services

**Members:** Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Director of Pharmacy RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Chief Oncology Pharmacist, Sterile Products / IV Room Supervisors from the Acute Care Service Line, Executive Director of Oncology Pharmacy Services and Research Pharmacy Shared Resource Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Renovating all clean rooms and areas where sterile compounding takes place in each facility to meet new USP 797 and 800 regulations
- Standardizing the maintenance of clean rooms, including the equipment and cleaning products used
- Standardizing the competency of employees that will work in the compounding of sterile products
- Standardization of policies for compounding, cleaning, and maintenance of the clean rooms or areas
- Guide decisions on what products to centralize the compounding at RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services Pharmacy Services



**Nakia Kandas, RPh,  
BCSCP**

IV Supervisor, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services  
Chair of Sterile Products Collaborative



**Olubunmi Afolabi,  
PharmD, BCSCP**

Sterile Products Supervisor,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Kristy Fursa, CPhT**

Pharmacy Technician Supervisor, RWJ University Hospital Hamilton



**Michael P. Kane, RPh,  
BCOP**

Executive Director, Oncology Pharmacy Services, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



**John Khat, RPh, MHA,  
CSP**

Sterile Products Supervisor,  
Community Medical Center



**Anita McNeill, RPh,  
BCSCP**

Director of Pharmacy,  
RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Dana Mikiewicz, PharmD**

Sterile Product Supervisor,  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Hwan "Mike" Namkung,  
PharmD**

Assistant Director of Pharmacy Operations, RWJ University Hospital Rahway



**Marcel Redhead,  
PharmD**

Sterile Products Supervisor,  
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



**Suzanne Sesta, RPh,  
BCSCP**

Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Jodie Skayhan, PharmD**

Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Corporate Pharmacy



**Randolph Sturgill,  
PharmD**

Chief Oncology Pharmacist,  
Pharmacist In Charge,  
Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center



**Melissa Thornhill, CPhT**

Sterile Products Supervisor,  
RWJ University Hospital



**Kathleen Tondo, PharmD**

IV Supervisor, Monmouth Medical Center

**Merit Henen, PharmD**  
Sterile Products Supervisor RWJ University Hospital Somerset

**Martin William Hesselbacher II, PharmD**  
Lead Pharmacist, Sterile Products Supervisor,  
Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus

**Hirra Khan, PharmD**  
Sterile Products Supervisor Clara Maass Medical Center

**Emmanuel Severe, CPhT**  
Sterile Products Supervisor Jersey City Medical Center



## **Pharmacy Enterprise Divisions**



The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise is  
Composed of Two Service Lines:  
**Acute Care Service** and **Integrated Service**

---

**The Acute Care Service Line is  
comprised of 14 pharmacy divisions:**

Children's Specialized Hospital

Clara Maass Medical Center

Community Medical Center

Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center

Jersey City Medical Center

Monmouth Medical Center

Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
Hamilton

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
Rahway

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
Somerset

RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center

Trinitas Regional Medical Center

**The Integrated Service Line is comprised of 10  
pharmacy divisions:**

Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Division

Corporate Pharmacy Division

Pharmacy Enterprise 340B Drug Pricing Program

Pharmacy Reimbursement Division

Retail Pharmacy Network Division

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

RWJBarnabas Health Consolidated Pharmacy  
Services Division

RWJBarnabas Health Centralized Warehouse  
Division

RWJBarnabas Health Home Infusion Care Division

RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy Division

## Acute Care Service Line

**RWJBarnabas**  
HEALTH

**Children's  
Specialized  
Hospital**



For over 125 years, Children's Specialized Hospital has been the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special health challenges – from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries, to a full scope of developmental, behavioral, and mental health concerns.

Our pharmacy team consists of 30 employees spread across two pharmacy departments. The Acute Rehabilitation hospital location in New Brunswick is our central location, with another pharmacy located in the Mountainside facility that services our two Pediatric Long Term Care residential facilities. These pediatric pharmacists are fluent in pediatric dosing of all medications, and utilize the most recent evidence-based literature to support pediatric medication use. Not only do they verify medication orders for the patients in the three facilities, they work closely with the prescribers to complete medication reconciliation on all patients being admitted from home or from sending facilities.

Pharmacists also provide anticoagulation monitoring and dosage recommendations as well as pharmacokinetic consults. Our pharmacy team is extremely focused on patient safety, and is involved in daily compounding and dispensing of solid and liquid medications in their most ready to use form for our smallest and youngest of patients. The pharmacy team also supports the nursing staff in their safe administration of these medications by providing a comprehensive medication profile for each patient and works closely with our nurses to determine medication administration times appropriate for their patients' therapy and daily activity schedule. Discharge counseling is provided to each family to ensure the safe transition to home with regard to their medication regimen.

Our pharmacists are integral members of the patient's clinical team and are very involved with providing clinical interventions centered on Antimicrobial Stewardship, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Chronic Pain Management and TPN/Nutrition related administration. We precept students from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University every month, and are honored to have seven student technicians working in order to enhance their didactic training with on the job learning at our hospitals. At 15 individual New Jersey inpatient and outpatient locations, our pediatric specialists partner with families so that all children can reach their full potential.



**Christine Tricarico,**  
PharmD, MBA, FACHE  
Administrative Director,  
Inpatient Clinical  
Operations



**Karen Kisty, PharmD,**  
BCPS  
Manager of Pharmacy  
Services

## Acute Care Service Line

### Clara Maass Medical Center

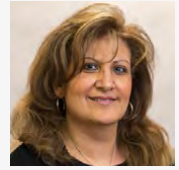
Clara Maass Medical Center is a 472-bed community medical center located in Belleville, NJ. The mission of Clara Maass is to provide exceptional services and quality to its community, through its passion for excellence and perfection. Clara Maass Centers and Services include: the Women’s Health Center, Nuclear Medicine, the Cancer Center at Clara Maass, Diagnostic Cardiac Services including Cardiac Catheterization, Emergency Angioplasty and Rehabilitation, the Pain Management Center, the Joint and Spine Institute, a Vascular Center, Same Day Surgery, the Wound Care Center at Clara Maass, the Center for Sleep Disorders, the Bariatric Surgery Center, Rehabilitation Services, Comprehensive Ophthalmology Services, Maternity Services and Parent Education, Radiology Services, Pediatrics, a state-of-the-art Emergency Department and Intensive Care unit, and community outreach programs. The CMMC Department of Pharmacy continues to support the mission of Clara Maass Medical Center and the community it serves.

The pharmacy department employs more than 60 pharmacists and technicians who provide care in the inpatient and outpatient settings by utilizing a decentralized pharmacy model. The centralized pharmacists serve as a resource to our medical and nursing staff, verify medication orders and products dispensed, oversee technician activities, and compound parenteral admixtures. Decentralized pharmacists are stationed in the medical intensive care unit, emergency department, and telemetry units. They participate in daily rounds, provide medication education, perform patient counseling, and participate in medical emergencies. Pharmacy technicians work alongside pharmacists to ensure safe preparation and delivery of sterile and non-sterile products. The department performs a variety of clinical services, including anticoagulation management, pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic monitoring, and antimicrobial stewardship. The pharmacy department employs clinical specialists who provide services in Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Cardiology, and Behavioral Health. All pharmacy clinical specialists hold board certifications in their respective practice areas.

The pharmacy department supports hospital services in the areas of pediatrics, critical care, adult medicine, emergency medicine, infectious disease, cardiology, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, hospice, telemetry, and oncology. The department is involved in several interdisciplinary committees including the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Quality and Safety Council, Performance Improvement Council, Falls Committee, Pain Committee, and many others. Pharmacy works collaboratively with the transitions of care teams to better serve those with congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

CMMC Pharmacy places high emphasis on education and research. The department has numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals, and research has been presented locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Members of the pharmacy team hold educational sessions for nursing and medical staff. Clinical specialists continue to serve as preceptors for pharmacy students from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. The pharmacy department has maintained an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency program since 2007, which has expanded to two PGY1 resident positions.

CMMC Pharmacy department will continue to provide safe, high quality care, in an atmosphere of professionalism and respect, for the betterment of our patients and community.



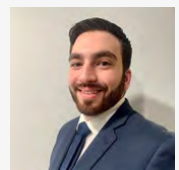
**Mona Philips, RPh, MAS**  
Director of Pharmacy Services



**Mitesh M Patel, PharmD, BCCCP**  
Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy PGY1 Residency Program Director



**Simran Singh, PharmD, BCPS**  
Pharmacy Operations Supervisor



**George Romanos, MBA**  
IT Specialist



**Barbara Sanders**  
Pharmacy Purchasing Supervisor



**Lisa Freid**  
Pharmacy Technician Coordinator

**Hirra Khan, PharmD**  
Sterile Products Supervisor

## Acute Care Service Line

### Community Medical Center

Since 1961, Community Medical Center (CMC) has provided care to the residents of Ocean County, and has grown into the largest and most active health care facility in the county. CMC is a 528 bed fully accredited medical center that is dedicated to advancing the quality of life and health of the community. Community Medical Center offer comprehensive services, including cancer care at the J. Phillip Citta Regional Cancer Center, wound care at The Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, neurology and neurosurgery services, cardiac care and catheterization on and off-site, surgical services, outpatient dialysis, obstetric, pediatric and outpatient infusion services. Advanced care is provided at the Center for Sleep Disorders, the Center for Diabetes Education and the Women's Imaging Center. CMC also supports a 25 bed on-site, acute rehabilitation center, a 100 bed Emergency Department and many community outreach programs.

Our team of pharmacists and technicians provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a hybrid-decentralized model, a surgical Pharmacy satellite and Outpatient Infusion Pharmacy complex. Clinical Generalists provide decentralized clinical services and perform centralized clinical and operational activities. Pharmacy services are provided using technology including computerized physician order entry (CPOE), barcode medication administration (BCMA), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) and inventory carousel storage. Clinical Generalists provide clinical order and lab review, patient counseling, medication dosing and drug information, as well as dispensing and sterile compounding services. Technicians and pharmacists work together to support efficient and effective patient care.

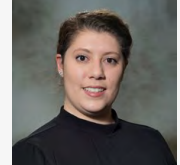
Community Medical Center has 5 Clinical Specialists who hold multiple board certifications in their respective practice areas. Specialists include 1 in Critical Care, 1 in Infectious Disease and 2 in Emergency Medicine. CMC has one Clinical Faculty from Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, who specializes in Critical Care and is a member of the Pharmacy Specialist team. The Clinical Specialists participate in daily patient interdisciplinary rounds in their respective areas, provide evidence based medication recommendations, provide education to the interdisciplinary care team and participate in patient counseling.

Dedication to the profession is shown through the student preceptor program with Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University and Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, as well as through our on-site pharmacy residency programs. CMC is proud to have achieved an eight-year ASHP accredited residency program for two PGY-1 Pharmacy Residents as well as an eight-year ASHP accredited PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency program. Continuous Learning and improvement for the entire staff is a core principle of the department. Team members provide presentations at the local, state, national and international levels and routinely publish original research in peer-reviewed journals. The Pharmacy Department leads investigational studies and provides education for the nursing and medical staff. The Pharmacy Department also participates in many community outreach programs.

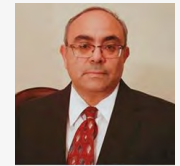
The Pharmacy Department is committed to providing safe, effective and cost-conscious service as we support the mission of our medical center in caring for the community we serve. We are equally dedicated to advancing the Pharmacy profession and elevating our team members to their fullest potential while striving to meet CMC's and RWJBarnabas Health System's mission, vision and values.



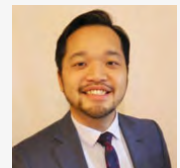
**Lynne Goldstein, RPh, MBA**  
Director of Pharmacy Services



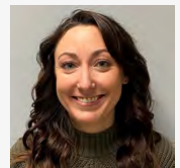
**Anne Ficalora, PharmD, BCSCP**  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy Services



**John Khat, RPh, MHA, CSP**  
Sterile Products Supervisor



**Daniel Fung, PharmD**  
Pharmacy Informatics Specialist



**Kara LaFontaine, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Buyer

## Acute Care Service Line

### Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center

Serving over 33,000 inpatients, 95,000 adult and pediatric Emergency Department patients, and 349,000 outpatients annually, our mission is to provide compassionate care, health care excellence, and superior service to our patients and their families. Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center (CBMC), by virtue of business and clinical excellence, received the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence (MAAPE) state level Baldrige award in 2017. CBMC also achieved Magnet reaccreditation in 2023. In 2023, NJDOH awarded CBMC the Gold Award Recognition for Antimicrobial Stewardship.

Working in conjunction with our teaching and medical staff of more than 1,700 physicians and dentists, our vision is to advance the health and quality of life in our community. We demonstrate our values of exceptional communication, outstanding teamwork, professional integrity, and accountability while serving our patients, community, and each other.

The pharmacy department consists of 115 employees and 85 FTEs providing decentralized pharmacy services. The decentralized model is supported by computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) on the units, and bed-side barcode medication administration. Decentralized clinical-staff pharmacists, in areas of perioperative, neonatal intensive care, outpatient oncology, and all other inpatient care areas, perform order verification from the area they are assigned to, provide direct patient education and also participate in multidisciplinary patient rounds. Pharmacist activities are supported by Board of Pharmacy registered pharmacy technicians, all holding additional certifications from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). There are some technicians who also hold additional certification in Sterile Compounding through PTCB. In the central pharmacy, the technicians assist pharmacists by answering phones, filling labels, compounding sterile and non-sterile medications, and performing deliveries. Medication admission reconciliation technicians work in the Emergency Department and Same Day Surgery where they interact directly with patients, families, retail pharmacies and other health care facilities to ensure medication histories are accurate and up-to-date.

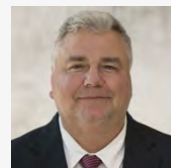
The pharmacy has 12 clinical specialists who provide additional support and serve as resources to pharmacy, nurses, physicians and patients. These clinical specialists practice in Antimicrobial Stewardship, Critical Care, Diabetes Stewardship, Emergency Medicine, Geriatrics, Perioperative Services and Renal Transplant, which has three focused specialists. In addition, the department has three Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy - Rutgers University Faculty, who specialize in pediatrics, cardiology, and internal medicine. Currently, 28 pharmacists have attained one Specialty Board Certification and 5 of those pharmacists have attained two certifications. The cardiology pharmacist runs the Rutgers Teaching and Learning certificate statewide program and recognized as a Fellow of the Heart Failure Society of America. The pediatric pharmacist has been named to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Standardize 4 Safety Advisory Pediatric Expert Panel, in addition to being the Chair of the ASHP Pediatrics Section Advisory Group and a reviewer for the Institution for Safe Medication Practices. Between faculty and clinical staff pharmacists, the department precepts over 70 students per year and serves as a Rutgers Knight Scholar site. In addition to the clinical specialists, the department has an ASHP-accredited pharmacy residency program with four PGY1 pharmacy practice residents and one PGY2 ASHP-accredited Geriatric pharmacy residency program.

Other hospital services supported by the pharmacy department include pediatrics, neonatal, critical care, gynecology/maternity, NJ's only certified burn intensive care unit and step down, renal transplant, emergency medicine, general medicine, cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, geriatrics, wound care, cyber knife and oncology.

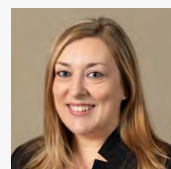
As education and research are continually in focus, in 2023 pharmacy personnel contributed 12 published journal articles, 3 book chapters, 15 local education/poster presentations to nursing, physicians and pharmacists, 5 national/state level CE presentations, 22 national/state level presentations/posters, and 50 community outreach events. Pharmacists involved in clinical research trials supported 5 open enrollment studies for MS, and renal transplant and 30 for oncology.



**Heather DeSanto, PharmD, BCSCP**  
Director of Pharmacy Services



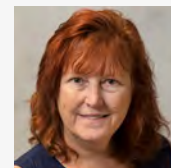
**John Hoffman, PharmD**  
Assistant Director Pharmacy, Operations



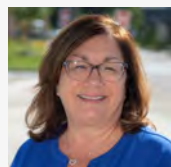
**Alison Brophy, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**  
Assistant Director, Pharmacy Clinical Services, PGY1 Residency Program Director



**Olunmi Afolabi, PharmD, BCSCP**  
Sterile Products Supervisor



**Susan Davanzo, RPh, MPA**  
Medication Safety Supervisor



**Mindy Wilinsky, RPh**  
Operations Supervisor



**Kimberly Parris-Rock, CPhT**  
Clinical Coordinator



**Linda Allen, RPh**  
Senior IT Pharmacist

## Acute Care Service Line

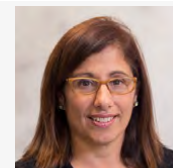
### Jersey City Medical Center

Since 1882, Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC) has provided Hudson County with state-of-the-art medical treatment across a broad range of disciplines. The Medical Center operates based on the pillars of Patient Safety, Patient Satisfaction, Clinical Quality and Economic Health. The Pharmacy Department supports the mission of “Enhancing Life” to the people and communities we serve. The institution uses electronic clinical information system (ECIS) to ensure a safe medication process. The system allows for computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), standardized order sets, and bedside barcode medication administration (BCMA). Medication distribution is optimized by the use of automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) throughout the institution. Additionally, the pharmacy department services clinics specializing in HIV, oncology, behavioral health, women’s health, pediatric, dental, vision, wound care, maternal fetal health and group homes, as well as a hospital licensed satellite emergency department located in Bayonne.

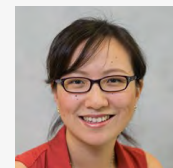
The department is staffed by a total of 49 full time equivalents providing a wide range of operational and clinical services both on the inpatient and ambulatory care sides. Over 95% of the pharmacy technicians are certified technicians with their roles expanding in recent years to areas such as ADC optimization and supervisory roles. In 2023, we elevated technician role to Sterile Products Supervisor, providing USP 797 and USP 800 oversight alongside designated pharmacist. Clinical generalist pharmacists work in the main pharmacy fielding drug information requests, reviewing laboratory data, allergies and vetting appropriateness of all medications ordered through the CPOE system while overseeing the medication distribution activities of pharmacy technicians. Since October 2021, the department has maintained a vancomycin dosing and monitoring consult pilot service. With a pre-approved protocol, pharmacists have independently managed patients on vancomycin IV therapy, using AUC or trough-based dosing.

Currently, 13 pharmacists hold 16 Board Certifications in a variety of specialty areas. Clinical specialists are decentralized in the ICU, Emergency Department, Psychiatry, and Medical-Surgical units. Additionally, 2 Rutgers faculty members are dedicated to Hospitalist service and ambulatory care HIV clinic. Our dedicated infectious diseases/antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist continues to maintain and expand our robust antimicrobial stewardship program. For 2 years in a row, JCMC received the Gold Award in 2023 given by the NJ Department of Health Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program. Clinical specialists are a great source of satisfaction to our patients and interdisciplinary teams. Their daily activities are focused on patient monitoring, vancomycin service, patient education, rounding with prescribers, medication safety, providing drug information to both patients and the interdisciplinary team. Our specialists serve as preceptors for our ASHP-Accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program and host external residents from within the system as well. Specialists precept students on rotation from Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP), Rutgers University, including hosting the Knight Scholar Program. Finally, a number of specialists also lead their discipline at the system-level, co-chairing collaboratives to provide recommendations and advance change in their areas of expertise.

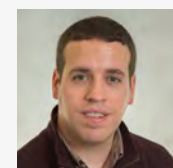
The momentous milestone achieved in April 2023, several years in the making, was the implementation of EMR system EPIC® in our hospital and outpatient areas including oncology. EPIC® has transformed numerous aspects of pharmacy operation, increasing accuracy, transparency, accountability, and documentation. Pharmacist’s interaction with a patient’s full medical record and communication with the interdisciplinary team are more integrated than ever before. Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the upcoming integration of our AUC dosing software with the ECIS, which will allow us to take our vancomycin dosing service to the next level.



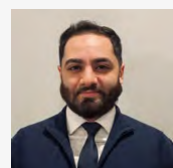
**Maria DeVivo, PharmD, MPA, BCPS, BCACP**  
Director of Pharmacy Services



**Sandy Moreau, PharmD, BCPS**  
Clinical Coordinator, PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director



**Patrick Mormino, PharmD**  
Pharmacy Operations Supervisor



**Muhammad Shahid, PharmD, BCOP**  
Pharmacy Oncology Supervisor



**Sheryl Darville, PharmD**  
Information Technology Pharmacist



**Teaka Singh, CPhT**  
340B Coordinator / Pharmacy Buyer

**Emmanuel Severe, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Technician Coordinator

**Joe Galeon, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Technician Coordinator

## Acute Care Service Line

### Monmouth Medical Center

The Monmouth Medical Center Department of Pharmacy takes care of inpatients and outpatients in a decentralized practice model. MMC Pharmacy is committed to ensuring patient satisfaction and continuity of care. The outpatients cared for by the pharmacy are registered to radiology, laboratory, surgery, psychiatry, cardiology, outpatient infusion centers, and the emergency department. The hospital pharmacy takes care of a very large outpatient oncology/hematology population, servicing the Valerie Fund pediatric infusion center, the BBR4 outpatient adult infusion center, and the Vantage Point adult infusion center.

The Vantage Point infusion center is offsite, but part of the hospital, and has two dedicated pharmacists, a technician, a specialty pharmacist liaison, and a dedicated chemotherapy compounding area. The hospital pharmacy also works closely with the retail pharmacy, located in the lobby, to ensure continuity of care for patients transitioning out from the facility using the hospital's meds-to-beds program. The hospital participates in the 340B drug pricing program, the benefits of which apply to our outpatients treated by the hospital pharmacy and contracted retail pharmacies.

The inpatient pharmacy is decentralized into two medical-surgery areas of the hospital with pharmacists operating to verify orders on the units, and attending rounds and counseling patients. The decentralized model is supported by computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) on the units, and bed-side barcode medication administration (BCMA). Technicians support the decentralized pharmacists by restocking the ADCs and delivering non-stocked medications to the units from the central pharmacy. In the central pharmacy, the technicians assist pharmacists by answering phones, filling labels, compounding and picking medications, and performing deliveries. Centralized clinical pharmacists answer phones, verify orders, and oversee technician activities and IV room compounding.

The pharmacy has 5 clinical specialists who provide additional support and serve as resources to the pharmacy, nurses, physicians and patients. There are two in-house clinical specialists, emergency department, and antimicrobial stewardship. The pharmacy also has 3 inpatient Rutgers faculty, including internal medicine, critical care, and psychiatry. Another novel practice at MMC is the placement of two pharmacy technicians in the emergency department dedicated to collecting accurate medication histories for the physicians to reconcile. All pharmacy staff are expected to promote the core values of the pharmacy and document their value and contribution.

The hospital services supported by the pharmacy department include pediatrics, neonatal, gynecology/maternity, critical care, psychiatry, general medicine, emergency medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, robotic surgery, geriatrics, and oncology. In addition to precepting over 40 pharmacy students per year, the pharmacy department also maintains a pharmacy residency program, which hosts two PGY1 residents.



**Scott Mathis, PharmD**  
Regional Director of  
Pharmacy Services,  
Monmouth Medical  
Center Campuses

**Frangiskos Lambrinos**  
Assistant Director of  
Operations



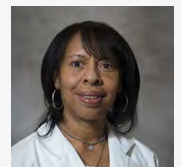
**Germin Fahim, PharmD,  
BCPS**  
Clinical Coordinator,  
PGY1 Residency Program  
Director



**Kathleen Tondo,  
PharmD**  
IV Supervisor



**Brian Bishop, PharmD,  
BCPS**  
Regional Senior  
Pharmacy Systems  
Analyst



**Robin Henson, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Buyer

## Acute Care Service Line

### Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus

The Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus Department of Pharmacy takes care of both inpatients and outpatients 24 hours per day, and is committed to ensuring patient satisfaction, patient safety, and continuity of care.

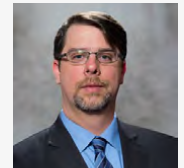
The outpatients cared for by the pharmacy department are seen in the emergency department, radiology, wound care, surgery, and outpatient infusion center. The hospital pharmacy takes care of a growing outpatient oncology/hematology population, onsite in the outpatient infusion center. The hospital participates in the 340B drug pricing program, the benefits of which apply to the population they serve.

The inpatient pharmacy is centralized near the emergency department and the operating room. In the central pharmacy, the technicians assist pharmacists by answering phones, filling labels, compounding and picking medications, and performing deliveries. Centralized clinical pharmacists verify orders, attend to drug information inquiries, monitor drug therapy, prepare medications for dispensing, perform IV room drug compounding, and oversee all technician core duties and assigned activities.

The services are structured to incorporate the pharmacist into the multidisciplinary team during rounds when possible. The model is supported by computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) on the units, and bedside barcode medication administration (BCMA). Technicians support the pharmacists by restocking the ADCs and delivering the manually prepared and non-stocked medications to the units from the central pharmacy.

The pharmacy has two clinical specialists who provide additional support and serve as resources to the pharmacy, nurses, physicians, and patients. These pharmacists provide daily clinical support in the Emergency Department, Critical Care, and antimicrobial stewardship as well as interact and counsel patients whenever there is a need. They monitor drug therapy in detail, evaluate therapy outcomes, attend patient care rounds, and assess for proper compliance with safe practices, and with practice in accordance with clinical policy. The hospital services supported by the pharmacy department include pediatrics in the emergency department, critical care, geriatrics, oncology, psychiatry, general medicine, emergency medicine, neurology, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, ophthalmologic surgery, podiatric surgery, and ear nose and throat surgery. The hospital has a meds-to-bed service with a pharmacy technician liaison.

The pharmacy department is involved in numerous community outreach activities that help assist and improve drug information knowledge for the community at flu clinics, cardiac rehab brown bag events, and better health program events. The department also precepts pharmacy students each year. In addition, the clinical specialists offer rotation opportunities to pharmacy residents from other hospitals within the RWJBarnabas Health system, when applicable. All pharmacy staff is expected to promote the care values of the pharmacy department and help promote patient safety and quality care in all aspects of the profession.



**Scott Mathis, PharmD**  
Regional Director of Pharmacy Services, Monmouth Medical Center Campuses



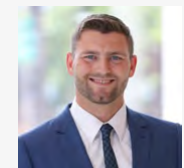
**Gary Del Piano, PharmD**  
Director of Pharmacy Services



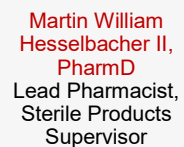
**Yasmine Elbaga, PharmD, BCPS**  
Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator



**Leah Leszcynski, PharmD**  
Clinical Pharmacist



**Brian Bishop, PharmD, BCPS**  
Regional Senior Pharmacy Systems Analyst



**Martin William Hesselbacher II, PharmD**  
Lead Pharmacist, Sterile Products Supervisor



## Acute Care Service Line

### Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a 665-bed regional care teaching hospital that provides comprehensive health care. Newark Beth Israel is a Top Teaching Hospital and home to one of the nation's top 15 heart transplant centers, which has performed more than 1,100 heart transplants; New Jersey's only Advanced Lung Disease and Transplant Program; and a Valve Center that performs complex cardiac valve procedures. The hospital is also home to the Children's Hospital of New Jersey (CHoNJ), which cares for children from birth through adolescence, with more than 30 specialized pediatric services including New Jersey's largest Valerie Fund Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and the Children's Heart Center. The hospital has received numerous awards that recognize their excellence in delivering healthcare. Accolades include three consecutive World's Best Hospital by Newsweek, 6 consecutive "A" grades from The Leapfrog Group, and best Maternity Hospital designation from Newsweek. Newark Beth Israel was also recognized as a Gold Antimicrobial Stewardship Award recipient by the New Jersey Department of Health for three consecutive years.

The Department of Pharmacy's mission is to provide our patients with effective pharmaceutical care in a safe, compassionate, and innovative environment. Over 90 employees who consist of highly trained pharmacists, technicians, residents, and administrative pharmacy staff ensure the safe delivery of pharmaceutical services for inpatients and outpatients of all age groups. In 2023, the hospital successfully transitioned to EPIC, a state-of-the-art electronic health record system, with integrated technology systems to support safe and efficient medication use throughout the organization.

In order to support the multiple acute care services that Newark Beth Israel offers, the Pharmacy Department is decentralized in the pediatric, oncology, and critical care areas of the hospital, enabling pharmacists to be immediate medication expert resources to all members of the healthcare team. In the Main Pharmacy, the clinical staff pharmacists verify orders for those areas that do not have a decentralized pharmacy, answer medication-related questions, and oversee the overall dispensing of medications and compounding of sterile products.

Technicians, many of which hold professional certifications, support the activities of the pharmacy team in the decentralized and Main pharmacy areas. Our patient discharge advocate technician executes the services of the Meds-to-Beds program. The technician works collaboratively with the healthcare team to ensure continuity of care by having patients' medications available to them prior to discharge. The department also manages the hospital's 340b program, which generates cost savings that help support pharmacy programs and services, leading to improved medication access and adherence for our served population.

The Pharmacy Department has seven clinical specialists with pharmacotherapy expertise in the areas of transplant, critical care, pediatrics, infectious diseases, geriatrics, and internal medicine. They provide clinical support to pharmacy staff, physicians, patients, and many other healthcare disciplines by participating in daily multidisciplinary rounds and in the optimization of medication therapy for their patients. They also support the ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency program by serving as preceptors and mentors.

As part of a teaching hospital with various academic disciplines, the Pharmacy Department provides extensive educational opportunities for pharmacy students, pharmacy staff, medical providers and trainees, as well as other healthcare disciplines throughout the hospital. Members of the pharmacy team consistently contribute to the field of pharmacy through research projects and poster presentations at local and national conferences.

The Pharmacy Department is an active member of the hospital's journey toward being a high reliability organization through participation on various performance improvement committees and initiatives, and by striving to provide the best pharmaceutical services to our patients and community through developing partnerships with patients and other health care providers.



**Kwakye Acheampong**  
PharmD, BCPS  
Director of Pharmacy Services



**Dehali Bandyopadhyay**,  
PharmD, MS  
Assistant Director of Operations



**Polly Jen**, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP  
Assistant Director of Clinical Services



**Ernest Pianim**, PharmD  
Pharmacy Operations Supervisor



**Marcel Redhead**, PharmD  
Sterile Products Supervisor



**Steven Smoke**, PharmD,  
BCIDP  
Pharmacy Systems Integration Analyst



**Joanna King**, CPHT  
Pharmacy Inventory Control Specialist



**Kia Armour**, CPhT  
Technician Supervisor

## Acute Care Service Line

### Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at New Brunswick is a 620-bed academic medical center whose Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care, stroke care, neuroscience, joint replacement, and women's and children's care including The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (BMSCH). The hospital treats over 30,000 inpatients and has over 70,000 Emergency Room visits annually. As the flagship Cancer Hospital of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, RWJUH-NB is an innovative leader in advancing state-of-the-art care. A Level 1 Trauma Center and the first Pediatric Trauma Center in the state, RWJUH's New Brunswick campus serves as a national resource in its ground-breaking approaches to emergency preparedness.

The Pharmacy Department provides decentralized services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a staff of approximately 160 employees including Pharmacists and Technicians. Specialized pharmaceutical services are provided throughout the hospital with the role of pharmacy in patient care being widely accepted. At RWJUH-NB, the pharmacists serve as active participants in the interdisciplinary healthcare team, participate in all adult and pediatric codes, and are active members on various hospital safety and quality committees. Our Technicians are certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and are integral members of the pharmacy team. They provide essential support to pharmacists by compounding sterile and non-sterile medications, filling medication orders, optimizing and filling automated dispensing cabinets (ADCs), ensuring medications are barcoded and delivering to patient care areas.

Technology is widely integrated into the Pharmacy Department and includes integration of a hospital-wide Computer Physician Order Entry (CPOE) with disease-specific order sets and safety features such as dose-range checking and maximum allowable doses. ADCs in nursing units, operating rooms, procedural areas and emergency areas are the basis of the unit-based distribution technology employed at RWJUH New Brunswick. The Pharmacy also has an inventory control system utilizing carousel technology and uses internal barcode scanning for accuracy of loading and dispensing from the system. Knowledge-based barcode administration and an electronic intervention reporting system round out the department's technology.

The Department is supported by a Pediatric Clinical Specialist, two Transplant Pharmacists, an Oncology Clinical Specialist, and five Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy Rutgers University Shared Faculty, who specialize in Critical Care, Drug Information, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine. These individuals along with Pharmacy staff support precepting and mentoring two PGY1 Residents, two PGY2 ER Residents, and two PGY2 Drug Information Residents and over 80 students per year. Finally, RWJUH New Brunswick is the primary site for the Health Scholars Institute program of New Brunswick, with many high school students taking an avid career interest as either a Pharmacy Technician or Pharmacist.

#### Pharmacy Department Mission:

It is the goal of the Hospital Pharmacy Department to provide high quality, comprehensive pharmaceutical services in the area of patient care and to provide recognized, meaningful research and education to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at New Brunswick and the community which it serves. It is the philosophy of the Department not only to function at the highest level of acceptable practice, but to be committed to innovation and development within that practice and to serve as a role model for Institutional Pharmacy Practice.

A dedicated staff and effective management, at all administrative levels, are necessary for the achievement of our goals. This requires planning, budgeting, communication and the development and administration of sound, progressive and equitable personnel policies. The Department will strive to recruit and retain highly qualified and competent staff and is also committed to facilitating professional growth within the department.



**James Barna, PharmD**  
Director of Pharmacy Services

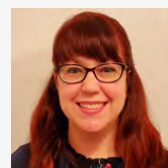


**Sharon Mindel, PharmD, MBA**  
Assistant Clinical Director of Pharmacy, PGY1 Residency Program Director

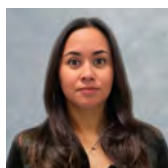
**Joo Kim, RPh**  
Pharmacy Operations Manager



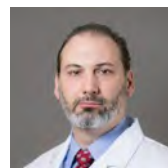
**Moises Junchaya, BS, RPh**  
Pharmacy Systems Administrator



**Melissa Thornhill, BS, CPhT**  
Sterile Products Supervisor



**Flora Garrihy, CPhT**  
Supervisor



**Robert Wessolock, MS, RPh**  
Supervisor

## Acute Care Service Line

### Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton

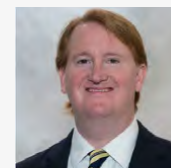
The Department of Pharmacy Services provides pharmaceutical care to the inpatients and outpatients of RWJ University Hospital at Hamilton, a 265 bed community hospital which is committed to Excellence Through Service and Quality. We exist to promote, preserve and restore the health of our community. The vision at Hamilton is to passionately pursue the health and well-being of our patients, employees and the community through our culture of exceptional service and commitment to quality. The department supports all services within the hospital which includes inpatient, surgical, emergency and radiology services. We also care for our oncology patients in a robust outpatient hematology/oncology center located on campus. The pharmacy department also provides a pharmacist run outpatient anticoagulation clinic staffed by an anticoagulation certified pharmacist.

Pharmacy is highly integrated into the hospital patient safety system with the utilization of a common health information system shared among our inpatient department promoting intradepartmental information exchange. Pharmacy also utilizes a hospital wide automated medication distribution through a highly controlled network of automated dispensing cabinets in the inpatient, emergency, radiology and surgical suite areas. Our clinical information system supports the medication safety process from the creation of the medication order by utilization computer prescribed order entry (CPOE) with clinical alerts and algorithms, review and verification of medication orders by a pharmacist, through the use of Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) at the patients' bedside. The clinical information system also supports safe medication use at RWJ Hamilton by providing in real time current patient medication regimens, current patient labs, allergies, significant patient demographics along with screening for drug-drug interactions, dose range checking and compatibility checks.

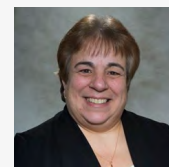
Through a staff of 49 highly trained pharmacists and technicians, the department provides a hybrid decentralized/centralized staff model. We continue our clinical staff developed training model where criteria based competency with a Critical Care Pharmacist designation within the facility. These pharmacists work with our ICU intensivists under to provide prospective medication reviews and clinical services. We were able to expand this team from four pharmacists to eight pharmacist to allow for expanded services to the ICU and enhanced staff development. Cross-training in the pharmacy department has expanded and been a major focus of 2023, particularly with the cancer center and anticoagulation clinic. Through strong efforts, our staff in collaboration with other RWJ Hamilton staff helped achieve a B as our Leapfrog rating in 2023. Our staff are decentralized in the ICU, telemetry and medical/surgical units in order to provide medication therapy review and management utilizing a pharmacy surveillance system that monitors for over 190 medication related issues in real time. This, in collaboration with all members of the healthcare team, patients and their care givers, provide quality, evidence-based, cost effective care to help achieve our mission and vision.

Our Antimicrobial Stewardship Taskforce is a successful example of pharmacy's impact on overall outcomes. Not only has the team improved utilization and outcome indicators, but have also reduced dollars spent on antimicrobials in 2023, illustrating that quality care can be achieved with savings. We achieved a Bronze Award from NJHA for our Antimicrobial Stewardship taskforce. Besides the outpatient anticoagulation service that is offered, Medical Staff approved protocols are used by inpatient pharmacists to manage anticoagulation therapy and vancomycin initial dosing. Our pharmacists are also members of and respond to all Rapid Response Team and Medical Team alerts. Pharmacy is also active in patient education. We provide medication related sessions in orthopedic, antibiotic use education and various community education events and fairs. Pharmacy staff has also taken the lead of an opiate Stewardship Taskforce to better measure, assess and determine improvements in opiate use to maximize benefit to our patients while reducing the risks that are associated with opiate use.

In keeping with our commitment to our own profession, our staff precepted 22 pharmacy and pharmacy technician students this year, mostly from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Our staff prides itself on helping develop highly qualified practitioners and giving back to our own profession and community. We maintained our Knight Scholar program with our affiliation with Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy where we take students for a period of four clinical rotations where they are exposed to clinical, administrative and leadership which enhances the overall experience for them and their development.



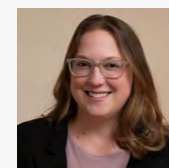
**Jonathan Margolin, MHA,  
RPh, ACHE**  
Director of Pharmacy  
Services



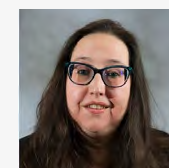
**Suzanne Caravella,  
PharmD, BCPS, RPh**  
Clinical Coordinator



**David Appel PharmD**  
Pharmacy Operations  
Manager



**Kristy Fursa, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Technician  
Supervisor



**Kathy Stocker, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Buyer

## Acute Care Service Line

### Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway

The Department of Pharmacy Services provides pharmaceutical care to the inpatients and outpatients of RWJ University Hospital Rahway (RWJUHR). The mission at RWJUHR is to deliver safe, quality, cost effective healthcare services, providing access and value to the community through a unified effort that meets individual needs with dignity and respect.

Through a staff of 30 highly trained pharmacists and technicians the department provides a hybrid decentralized/ centralized staff model 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Decentralized pharmacists allow the department to have increased direct patient contact time to help achieve hospital goals of improving clinical outcomes and measures along with increasing our patient satisfaction scores. Our department provides optimum pharmaceutical services through collaboration with all members of the healthcare team, patients and their caregivers in a cost-effective, evidenced-based manner with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

The decentralized model is supported by computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) on the units, and bed-side barcode medication administration. Pharmacist activities are supported by pharmacy technicians, holding additional certifications from institutions such as the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. The department has one clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious diseases area overseeing our Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and one assistant director of clinical pharmacy, who participates in daily multidisciplinary ICU patient care rounds, in addition to being an integral part of the various committees and actively precepting students.

Our pharmacy team, in collaboration with the rest of the hospital, help drive the institution's efforts to meet Joint Commission/Leapfrog and CDC requirements while ensuring optimal care for patients. In 2023, RWJUH Rahway received a Leapfrog grade A and NJ DOH Antimicrobial Stewardship Gold Award.



**Irina Polotskiy,**  
PharmD, BCPS  
Director of Pharmacy  
Services



**Hwan "Mike" Namkung,**  
PharmD  
Assistant Director of  
Pharmacy Operations



**Carolyn Lucchese,**  
PharmD, BCPS  
Assistant Director of  
Clinical Pharmacy



**Eliana Solis, CPhT,**  
CSPT  
Pharmacy Purchasing  
Coordinator/ Pyxis  
Administrator

## Acute Care Service Line

### Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Somerset, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, is a nationally accredited, 355-bed regional hospital providing comprehensive emergency, medical/surgical, behavioral health and rehabilitative services to central New Jersey residents. As a designated teaching hospital of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the hospital maintains a family medicine residency program with 21 residents and an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency program with two PGY1 resident positions.

RWJUH Somerset has earned significant national recognition for clinical quality and patient safety including the Magnet® Award for Nursing Excellence. As the first hospital in New Jersey to offer primary health care services for the LGBTQIA+ community, RWJUH Somerset has been honored as a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality by the Human Rights Campaign. The hospital is also distinguished for its Joint Surgery Institute, and is designated as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Steeplechase Cancer Center at RWJUH Somerset has been designated as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Center by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. RWJBarnabas Health and RWJUH Somerset in partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey - the state's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center - bring an internationally recognized team of researchers and specialists, providing close-to-home access to the latest treatment and clinical trials. The Cancer Center is supported by two chemotherapy pharmacy specialists.

The Department of Pharmacy provides pharmaceutical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Overall, there are approximately 38 FTEs including managers, pharmacists, residents, technicians and support staff. All pharmacy technicians are certified by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and assist pharmacists in filling orders, medication delivery, and sterile and non-sterile product compounding. Medication reconciliation technicians work in the Emergency Department and interact with patients, families, and retail pharmacies to ensure an accurate medication history is obtained. Clinical services are provided in various areas including, but not limited to internal medicine, critical care, emergency medicine and other specialty areas (e.g. geriatrics, infectious diseases, oncology and investigational drugs).

Medication is dispensed via a point of care decentralized distribution model supported by automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) with the latest technology on patient care units that provide nurses ready access to medications. Parenteral products are prepared in a clean room suite fully compliant to United States Pharmacopeia (USP) 797 and 800 regulations. With a dedicated staff of employees, modern facilities, a strong commitment to medication safety and performance improvement, a focus on customer service, and a role in educating future health-care professionals, the Department of Pharmacy at RWJ University Hospital Somerset is devoted to delivering operational and clinical excellence, while advancing care and maintaining financial and operational growth.

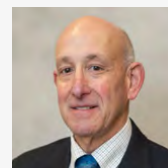
The hospital uses EPIC, a state-of-the-art electronic health record system with enhanced communication amongst providers and improved delivery of care. To ensure safe medication use, the system allows for computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), guidance from evidence-based order sets, an electronic medication administration record (e-MAR) and bedside bar-code medication administration (BCMA).

Our pharmacists are actively involved in therapeutic management. Our policies, guidelines, programs and services ensure that patients receive evidence based appropriate pharmaceutical care as measured against accepted standards. Several clinical programs and protocols have been developed at RWJUH Somerset by the Department of Pharmacy, which include but are not limited to drug dosing protocols, the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (i.e., pharmacy run vancomycin pharmacokinetic service, antimicrobial rounds), and clinical monitoring programs (i.e., anticoagulation monitoring program). For the past two years, we have received the Gold Award from the New Jersey Department of Health's Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program.

Our critical care pharmacist works with our Intensivists to optimize medication therapy in the critical care patient population. Three Rutgers faculty, who are residency trained and board certified support the clinical pharmacy program. They provide a significant contribution and serve as resources to family medicine, critical care, and the emergency department.

Individuals from the Department of Pharmacy are involved in numerous research activities, frequently publish and present scholarly work, and provide external educational programs on a national, state and local level. Pharmacists provide drug information and education to medical and nursing staff as well as patients, caregivers, and other members of the health care team to promote the safe, effective, efficient, and patient-centered use of medication therapy.

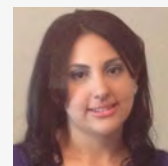
RWJUH Somerset Department of Pharmacy is affiliated with Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, precepting more than 50 students per year and serving as a Knight Scholar site. The Department has established training and continuing education programs to foster the professional development of staff and students.



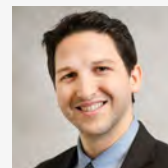
**Stuart Vigdor,**  
BS Pharm, RPh  
Director of Pharmacy  
Services



**Nancy Doherty, MS, RPh**  
Clinical Coordinator,  
Medication Safety Officer,  
PGY1 Residency Program  
Director



**Merit Henen, PharmD**  
Sterile Products  
Supervisor



**Matthew Young,**  
PharmD, BCPS  
Pharmacy Operations  
Manager



**Stephanie Wei,**  
PharmD, BCPS  
Pharmacy Systems  
Administrator

## Acute Care Service Line

### RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center

The RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center is a free-standing 100 bed acute care psychiatric facility which provides inpatient and intensive outpatient programs for adults and older adults diagnosed with psychiatric and dual diagnosis disorders. We are committed to serving our patients and providing a high level of care for our patients.

The pharmacy is located centrally in the building and is a pillar of providing medications, research, drug information, and clinical support for complex cases. The Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center utilizes computerized physician order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC), and barcode medication administration (BCMA). These IT solutions allow the pharmacy to operate at high efficiency, enabling pharmacists to focus on clinical aspects of patient's treatment.

One unique aspect of the RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center is that our prescribers are hired by our hospital, allowing the pharmacy to collaborate closely with our psychiatrists and advanced practice nurses. Our pharmacists are relied upon by all disciplines throughout our facility and are a frequently called upon to assist in problem solving. Our pharmacists participate in patient rounds and multi-disciplinary treatment teams throughout the week. The clinical activities our pharmacists perform include: pain consultations, anticoagulation monitoring and dosing, monitoring of all drug levels, medication reconciliation, medication education through inpatient and outpatient groups, diabetes education to inpatients and outpatients, pharmacogenetic analysis, and antimicrobial drug monitoring.

The pharmacy is staffed by 3 full time pharmacists, 2 part time pharmacists and 1 full time technician during daytime hours and is operating until midnight by 1 full time pharmacist. The pharmacy at RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center precepts over 20 students per year and offers a ASHP accredited PGY2 psychiatric residency.

**Kim Walsh, RPh, MBA**  
Director of Pharmacy  
Operations



**Henry Leach, PharmD,  
BCPP**  
Clinical Coordinator, PGY2  
Psychiatric Residency  
Program Director

**Kimberly Zimmermann,  
PharmD**  
Pharmacy Systems  
Analyst

## Acute Care Service Line

### Trinitas Regional Medical Center

Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC) is the latest facility to join RWJBarnabas on 1/1/2022. TRMC was established in 2000 following the consolidation of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. It is a Catholic teaching hospital with oversight provided by the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth. Trinitas is the only hospital in Elizabeth, a densely populated low-income urban immigrant city with a population of over 129,000. Operating on two major campuses, Trinitas has 554 beds, including a 120 bed long-term care center and a 98 bed Behavioral Health and Psychiatric facility. Annually, we treat nearly 20,000 inpatients and see over 450,000 outpatient visits. At Trinitas, we dedicate ourselves to God's healing mission. We strive to provide excellent, compassionate healthcare to the people and communities we serve, including those among us who are poor and vulnerable. As one of the state's top Charity Care provider, TRMC is focused on helping the working poor and impoverished people of the Greater Elizabeth Region and Union County. As such we are a 340B hospital and all staff work hard to manage this program and provide oversight for compliance.

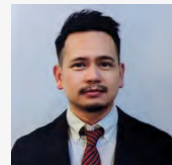
The pharmacy department at Trinitas has a total staff of 45 employees. Our electronic clinical information system utilizes computerized physician order entry as well as bedside medication barcode scanning during medication administration. This system contributes to safe medication administration and allows pharmacists to run drug-drug, food-drug and disease state interactions to help them make accurate clinical decisions during drug dispensing. Our technicians manage drug inventory using automatic dispensing machines throughout the hospital as well as in outpatient clinics. In addition, our Sterile Product Supervisor helps our department maintain high standards in sterile preparation while our Lead Technician focuses on evaluating metrics for Pyxis optimization.

Trinitas boast of very strong and knowledgeable pharmacy technicians, with 98% of them receiving their PTCB certification. Technicians work closely with the pharmacists to ensure safe medication practices. Whether it's preparing complex extemporaneous eye surgery preparations or playing an instrumental role in managing the hospital's outpatient clinics, our technicians are an integral part of the Trinitas pharmacy team. In addition to medication verification and dispensing, our staff pharmacists perform clinical monitoring activities such as remote ICU rounding, IV to PO conversions, adverse drug reaction reports, medication variance reporting and antimicrobial stewardship activities. In fact the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is well established with a multidisciplinary team who achieved the Silver Recognition Award for NJ DOH Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program. Pharmacists serve as a drug information resource, working closely with our multidisciplinary team to ensure high level care and assisting in the medication management of chronic disease states. Our vigilant narcotic audit process, which is spearheaded by pharmacy department, has helped to reduce any possibility of diversion. Pharmacists work diligently to provide excellent pharmaceutical services to our patients and perform over 1,000 interventions per month on average. Trinitas acute care pharmacy also provide services to three outpatient dialysis centers, one mixed dialysis unit, and serve as the main pharmacy for our off-site general psychiatric hospital at the New Point campus. Pharmacy department at Trinitas prepares an estimated 3500 epoetin alpha doses per month together with all other dialysis related medications needed to effectively care for the patients at these centers. In addition, all psychiatric orders and medication therapy management for New Point campus are prepared and dispensed from the acute care pharmacy on Williamson Street. Our psychiatric drug replacement program, which is managed in collaboration with staff at our New Point Campus, aims at increasing medication adherence post discharge and reducing recidivism. Our oncology pharmacy satellite is situated and fully integrated into our state of the art oncology center, which is a center of excellence as a Community Cancer Program. Pharmacists at this satellite work collaboratively with our oncologists, using the most up to date drug information systems and clinical tools, to formulate the most appropriate course of therapy for each of our cancer patients. Our oncology program now has the additional advantage of networking with the system, in particular with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

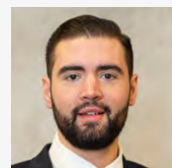
Pharmacy at Trinitas is always striving for excellence. The Management teams participates in many collaborative efforts including our Stroke Program, which has TJC Primary Stroke Certification and our Joint Program, which is TJC Certified. Future plans for our department include increasing pharmacist presence on the floors, expanding our clinical monitoring activities and continuing to bridge the gap between pharmacy and other disciplines. We remain committed to our pledge of a High Reliability Organization and are continuously improving in effort to facilitate excellent patient care.



**Sharon Greasheimer, MPA,  
PharmD, RPh**  
Director of Pharmacy



**Abelardo Viray, PharmD**  
Assistant Director  
of Pharmacy Operations



**Alexander Clark, PharmD,  
BCPS**  
Assistant Director of  
Pharmacy Clinical Services



**Dana Mikiewicz,  
PharmD**  
Sterile Products  
Supervisor



**Myriam Canuto, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Purchasing Agent



**Joceline Perez, CPhT**  
Lead Technician

## Integrated Service Line

### Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Division

#### Purpose Statement

It is the mission of the Ambulatory Care Division to provide integrated health-care services by pharmacists who are accountable for addressing medication needs, developing sustained partnerships with patients and practicing in the context of family and community. This is accomplished through direct patient care, patient advocacy, wellness and health promotion, education and medication management for ambulatory patients.

#### Who We Are

The Ambulatory Care Division is led by a team of clinical specialists, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Rutgers University faculty with expertise in assisting in the delivery of primary care, population health management, patient education and patient advocacy.

#### How We Accomplish Our Mission

- Placing a priority on direct patient care and meaningful interventions to improve the well-being of the patients
- Having an established presence within several physician office practices. In this setting, we are available to develop relationships with patients and providers in order to establish successful practice based initiatives.
- Aiding in medication reconciliation and drug optimization in order to improve patient outcomes and adherence.
- Utilizing resources such as pharmacy residents and students to foster a learning environment and broaden the reach of the division.
- Tracking interventions, monitoring progress of patients and initiatives, reporting successes and learning opportunities with other providers to improve the health of the patients we serve.
- Tailoring pharmacy services to meet value-based payment models.
- Developing collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) agreements with providers to increase efficiencies of team-based care.
- Coordinating efforts on community outreach and Global health initiatives, Emergency Management and Disaster Relief efforts.

#### Duties/Responsibilities

The Ambulatory Care Division works closely with healthcare providers, residents, students, and medical staff to:

- Create Centers of Excellence for ambulatory pharmacy training
- Perform comprehensive medication reviews to assess the appropriateness of medications, check for drug-drug interactions, and identify and resolve any adverse drug reactions
- Formulate patient specific medication related treatment and monitoring plans
- Evaluate and titrate patients' medications after close monitoring of patients' response to therapy pertaining to safety and efficacy
- Assist in the medication acquisition process, helping patients obtain needed medications at an affordable cost
- Deliver accurate, comprehensive, disease specific and/or patient specific drug information to patients, caregivers, and health care providers involved in the care of the patient
- Perform research and utilize findings to optimize patient care and outcomes
- Provide an environment to train future ambulatory care providers
- Connect with the larger community by participating in wellness activities across the region



**Jessica Bente-Miller, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP**  
Clinical Specialist, Geriatrics, PGY2 Geriatrics Residency Program Director, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



**Christine Dimaculangan, PharmD, BCACP**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, Jersey City Medical Center, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



**Alyssa Gallipani, PharmD, BCACP**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist - RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group, PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director



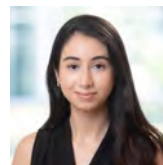
**Ammie Patel, PharmD, BCACP**  
Ambulatory Care Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy



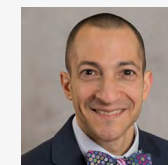
**Lalitha Sukumar, PharmD**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Specialist, RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group



**Shivam Vyas, PharmD**  
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist, RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group



**Maya Muhieddine, PharmD**  
PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Resident



**Lucio Volino, PharmD**  
Clinical Pharmacist Retail Network and Clinical Associate Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers University



## Integrated Service Line

### Corporate Pharmacy Division

#### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Corporate Pharmacy Division is to provide leadership and direction for the strategic, operational, clinical, research, financial, marketing and administrative functions associated with pharmacy services across the enterprise.

#### Mission Statement

To design and implement strategies to harmonize current and future Pharmacy services for optimal value, quality, efficiency, safety and effectiveness across the Pharmacy Enterprise.

#### Who We Are

The Corporate Pharmacy Division is a team of individuals with expertise in pharmacy: administration, clinical practice, value based purchasing, the 340B federal pricing program, system integration, clinical decision support, ambulatory practice, cost controls, revenue optimization, strategic planning and data analytics. The team is led by the health system's Chief Pharmacy Officer. The team consists of an Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations, Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services, Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services, Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations, Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration, 340B Drug Price Program Director and three analysts and audit specialists, Systems Integration Pharmacist, Pharmacy Business Manager and Pharmacy Billing Specialist.

#### How We Accomplish Our Mission

- 340B Program Oversight
- Centralized value based purchasing
- Clinical Decision Support
- Enterprise-wide strategic planning
- Enterprise-wide analytic reports
- Formulary and protocol standardization
- Medication supply chain stabilization
- Multiple advocacy platforms
- Pharmaceutical industry conduit
- Revenue optimization
- Systems integration



**Robert Pellechio, RPh, MPA**  
Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer



**Doug DeStefano, PharmD**  
Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations



**Jennifer Sternbach, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**  
Corporate Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy Services



**Jessica Koerner, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, FASHP**  
Corporate Assistant Vice President of Integrated Pharmacy Services



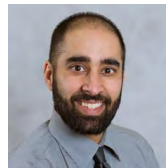
**Angelina Bayruns, CPhT**  
340B Analyst



**Caitlin Karabin**  
Pharmacy Billing Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy



**Tammy Kupper, CPhT**  
340B Analyst



**Kabeer Mago, PharmD, RPh**  
Systems Integration Pharmacist



**Bryan McCormick, CPhT, MBA**  
Corporate Director 340B Program



**Rahul Nakrani, MBA, MS**  
340B Analyst



**Ellen Secaras, MBA, RPh**  
Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration



**Jodie Skayhan, PharmD**  
Corporate Director of Pharmacy Operations



**Berna Sweeney, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Business Manager

## Integrated Service Line

### Pharmacy Enterprise 340B Drug Pricing Division

The 340B Program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to extend upfront discounts on covered outpatient medications purchased by federally registered covered entities. Congress passed the 340B Program as part of the Veterans Health Care Act in November of 1992. The program's intent was to aid safety-net providers whom serve the nation's most vulnerable patient populations in "stretching scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services." Pharmaceutical discounts extended to covered entities range anywhere from 15 to 60 percent. RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) has been able to transform these savings into increased access to care and medication for eligible patients in underserved communities with the greatest need.

The RWJBH 340B Program began with a single hospital over 10 years ago. The health system has since expanded into nine different covered entities registered with the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). RWJBH's 340B program is comprised of seven disproportionate share hospitals (DSH), one children's hospital, and one hemophilia treatment center. Each covered entity has contracted pharmacy agreements with a local retail network, including RWJBH wholly owned retail and specialty pharmacies. These arrangements further increase access to affordable medications for our eligible patients.

The RWJBH pharmacy enterprise has a central role in the initiation, operations, compliance and auditing of this complex program. This requires a coordinated effort between local facilities and the corporate pharmacy 340B team with the support of our 340B software vendor. The 340B team ensures RWJBH covered entities provide all required data to essential external vendors and routinely conduct data integrity reviews to maintain accuracy and compliance.

RWJBH facilities participating in the 340B Program are subject to audit by drug manufacturers, HRSA, and internal audit from the Corporate 340B Division. Failure to comply with 340B Program requirements could result in refund of discounts back to a manufacturer(s) or potential expulsion from the program.

During 2023, the corporate pharmacy 340B team assisted Children's Specialized Hospital with its enrollment into the 340B Program. Additionally, the team assisted with the successful transition of 5 DSH facilities from Cerner Millennium to EPIC, with little to no financial impact, as part of the RWJBH EPIC Together project. The team's efforts, executed with limited resources, helped to ensure compliant 340B Program utilization. Through continuous evaluation of 340B Program operations, the team has continued to increase efficiencies and maximize program benefits for the RWJBarnabas Health System.



**Doug DeStefano, PharmD**  
Corporate Assistant Vice President of Pharmacy Operations



**Bryan McCormick, CPhT, MBA**  
Corporate Director 340B Program, Corporate Pharmacy



**Angelina Bayruns, CPhT**  
340B Analyst, Corporate Pharmacy



**Tammy Kupper, CPhT**  
340B Analyst, Corporate Pharmacy



**Rahul Nakrani, MBA, MS**  
340B Analyst, Corporate Pharmacy

## Integrated Service Line

### Pharmacy Enterprise Reimbursement Division

#### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Pharmacy Reimbursement Division (PRD) is to enhance internal stakeholders' pharmacy billing and financial acumen and help optimize the reimbursement for our medications used within our healthcare system affiliates.

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the division is to assist the health system in maintaining its fiscal responsibility by improving the recovery of medication revenue and identifying cost savings opportunities within the Pharmacy Enterprise.

#### Who We Are

The PRD consists of a team of individuals with expertise in medication billing and reimbursement. The team is led by a Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration and supported by a Pharmacy Business Manager and Pharmacy Billing Specialist. The team includes a pharmacist, certified pharmacy technician and pharmacy billing specialist.

#### How We Accomplish Our Mission

Our team accomplishes our objectives by continuously collaborating with our internal and external customers comprised of various interdisciplinary departments (pharmacy departments, billing, patient accounting, revenue cycle IT, revenue integrity, finance, managed care and enterprise clinical information systems) and third-party vendors to resourcefully seek innovative pharmacy revenue/cost savings opportunities. We proactively reconcile charges and review Federal, State and Commercial billing regulations while decreasing insurer denials.

#### Duties/Responsibilities

The PRD operates under the Corporate Pharmacy department. Duties and responsibilities are established to meet the need of our internal and external customers and to support the division's purpose and mission as well as system-wide strategies.

- Reviews, identifies, and helps affiliates remedy aberrant medication charges
- Performs audits post go-live, either operational or clinical in nature, to ensure that expected outcomes are met and help mitigate unintended consequences
- Responds to pharmacy billing inquiries in a timely manner and offers guidance regarding insurance reimbursement
- Educates affiliates on accurate billing and charge reconciliation to avoid denials and claim resubmissions
- Develops process improvement initiatives to reduce billing inefficiencies or inaccuracies
- Identify, review and oversight for Epic medication billing and reimbursement build and logic
- Implementation and Corporate pharmacy lead for drug replacement, copay and foundation assistance programs



**Ellen Secaras, MBA, RPh**  
Corporate Director of Pharmacy Systems Integration, Corporate Pharmacy



**Berna Sweeney, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Business Manager, Corporate Pharmacy



**Caitlin Karabin**  
Pharmacy Billing Specialist, Corporate Pharmacy

## Integrated Service Line

### Barnabas Health Retail Network

Community pharmacists are responsible for a variety of patient-centered activities including but not limited to dispensing prescription and non-prescription medications, educating and counseling patients, screening for and providing vaccinations, identifying and addressing potential drug interactions, and optimizing patient care. Community pharmacists must work within legal and ethical guidelines set by many different regulatory agencies, including the State Board of Pharmacy, Drug Enforcement Administration, Food and Drug Administration, and third-party payers.

The Barnabas Health Retail Pharmacy network currently operates six pharmacies that offer convenient prescription services to the general public, patients, and employees. Our on-site pharmacies offer our patients a convenient method to address their discharge medication needs after doctors' appointments, clinic visits, outpatient procedures, and inpatient hospitalizations. Our complimentary bedside medication delivery service by our pharmacy discharge advocates provides patients a more efficient transition during discharge. In addition, this service allows our professional staff to educate patients on the importance of medication adherence and address any questions or concerns that patients may have prior to discharge. Our pharmacies also carry a comprehensive line of specialized medications and devices to meet the needs of our discharge populations and hospital programs.

This past year, the retail pharmacy enhanced its clinical services and went live on Epic Willow Ambulatory at four locations: Greenville, Jersey City Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The Dispensary of Hope program, which improves medication access to under-served populations by providing donated medications at no charge, was maintained at five retail locations. During 2023, community outreach programs expanded to 27 facilities/groups with educational topics including preventive medicine, medication safety, vitamins and supplements, and vaccine updates.

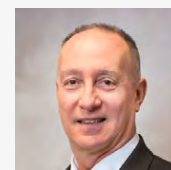
The retail pharmacy intends to build upon its robust patient care and clinical service programs in 2023. Initiatives include expanding and maximizing EPIC's retail platform and reporting, increasing immunization awareness including COVID-19 and RSV vaccination administration, optimizing third-party reconciliation receivable procedures, establishing insulin availability under the Dispensary of Hope program, implementing a medication Track and Trace program, and remodel the retail pharmacy at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

#### Patient-centered community outreach education and screening programs

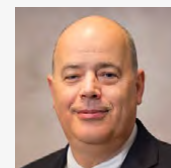
- Bethany Senior Center – Newark, NJ
- Bishop Taylor Manor – East Orange, NJ
- Edward and Lois Gray Apartments – Irvington, NJ
- Friday Friends – Millburn, NJ
- Livingston Senior Center – Livingston, NJ
- New Hope Village – Newark, NJ
- NJ Reentry Corporation – New Brunswick, NJ
- Old Guard Senior Citizens of Livingston – Livingston, NJ
- Senior Wellness Connection (NBI) – Newark, NJ
- Westfield Senior Housing – Westfield, NJ

#### Additional services offered by our pharmacy network include

- Tailored clinical services based on individual facility needs
- Bedside medication delivery prior to discharge
- Prescription delivery (some restrictions may apply)
- Adult Immunizations (where available)
- Popular generic prescription plans offered (\$4 for 30 days, \$10 for 90 days on select generic medications)
- Medication discount card program (offered as needed)
- Individualized medication consultation available on every prescription
- Computerized year-end tax records and insurance receipts
- Healthcare Provider In-service Education
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications available with a 20% discount to all employees
- Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) cards accepted
- Charity Care Prescription Programs
- Contracted pharmacy to our 340B hospitals
- All major insurance plans accepted: NJ Medicaid, CVS/Caremark, Horizon BC/BS of NJ, Express Scripts, Horizon NJ Health, Optum Rx, and Medicare Part D Plans
- Support system-based care transitions, adult immunizations, medication adherence, and medication therapy management (MTM)



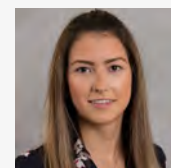
**Robert Pellechio, RPh, MPA**  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Pharmacy Officer



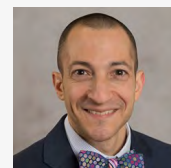
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Assistant Vice President,  
Retail Pharmacy Network



**Shawn Lynch, RPh**  
Pharmacist Senior  
Manager, Retail  
Pharmacy Network



**Monika Stachura, CPhT**  
Pharmacy Coordinator,  
Retail Pharmacy Network



**Lucio Volino, PharmD**  
Clinical Pharmacist  
Retail Network and  
Clinical Associate  
Professor, Ernest Mario  
School of Pharmacy,  
Rutgers University



**Christopher Cilderman, PharmD**  
Pharmacist in Charge, Clara  
Maass Medical Center Retail  
Pharmacy



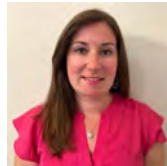
**Cathy King, PharmD**  
Pharmacist in Charge,  
Cooperman Barnabas  
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**Cynthia Laracuenta, PharmD**  
Pharmacist in Charge,  
Monmouth Medical Center  
Retail Pharmacy



**Kanakis Markakis, RPh, FACA**  
Pharmacist in Charge,  
Jersey City Medical Center  
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**Stephanie Parzych, PharmD**  
Pharmacist in Charge,  
Newark Beth Israel Medical  
Center Retail Pharmacy



**Maileen Simbulan, RPh**  
Pharmacist in Charge, Retail  
Pharmacy at Greenville

## Integrated Service Line

### RUTGERS Cancer Institute of New Jersey RUTGERS HEALTH

New Jersey's only National Cancer Institute (NCI) – designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's team of internationally recognized physicians and researchers is driven by a singular focus and mission, to help individuals fight cancer. Through the transformation of laboratory discoveries into clinical practice, we target cancer with precision medicine, immunotherapy and clinical trials and provide the most advanced, comprehensive, and compassionate world-class cancer care to adults and children. This mission is being accomplished in partnership with RWJBarnabas Health. Rutgers Cancer Institute physicians and scientists work side-by-side to make sure the most sophisticated treatments are delivered to our patients quickly and safely - the future of cancer treatments today.

In 2023, Rutgers Cancer Institute

- Cared for over 66,000 outpatient clinic visits to the center,
- Treated approximately 53,000 patient treatment-visits to Adult Infusion and Pediatric Infusion.
- Dispensing nearly 102,000 doses

Of these treatment-visits, 14.8% (or 7844) of patient visits involved a patient enrolled onto a therapeutic clinical trial. We also supported the growth of our CAR-t and Bone Marrow Transplant program to successfully care for 246 patients in total with one pharmacist dedicated to rounding on this population.

To support these service, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey employs:

- 5 Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist supporting clinical care
- 15 PharmDs supporting the infusion center operations and cleanroom
- 9 Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhT) with certification in USP797 and USP800
- 2 Research Pharmacist
- 2 Research Pharmacy Technicians
- 2 Transitions of Care Pharmacists
- 2 Oral Oncolytic Specialty Pharmacists
- 2 Specialty Pharmacy Technicians for Care Coordination
- 1 Informatics Pharmacist / EPIC Support

Researchers from Rutgers Cancer Institute have made outstanding scientific contributions towards the national goal of reducing the incidence of cancer and improving the outcomes for cancer patients. Rutgers Cancer Institute coordinates basic, clinical and population research through five comprehensive research programs comprised of faculty who form cohesive, interdisciplinary groups supported by peer-reviewed grants and Rutgers Cancer Institute shared resources. Close to 250 Rutgers Cancer Institute faculty members garner more than \$100 million annually in federal, state, and philanthropic grant support.

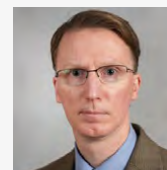
As oral chemotherapeutic agents become used more readily for the care of cancer patients, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, along with RWJBH Specialty Pharmacy and Home Infusion are working in conjunction to better the patient treatment experience. The goal of this Oral Oncolytic program (Specialty Rx Access) is to dispense oncology specific medications to patients, to reduce the cost associated with filling specialty medications, reduce distribution costs, ensure patient safety and adherence, and to comply with risk evaluation and mitigation strategy programs and URAC standards. To overcome the traditional, specialty pharmacy model as stand-alone or mail-order operations with no affiliation with the patient's practice-based oncology care team, our Health-System now has an internal specialty pharmacy service, which are highly integrated with the patient's oncology care team. This model matches best practice in the literature described as a closed-loop collaboration between the oncology practices and an internal specialty pharmacy access programs and results in positive clinical outcomes as well as both patient and provider satisfaction. The model includes three full-time pharmacists and 2 technicians within the Cancer Institute and 1 dedicated FTE at Monmouth Medical Center and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. This service has grown to over 5,000 prescriptions and a \$76mil revenue generating program locally and a \$1.27 billion revenue generating program when including all RWJBH sites under the oncology service line.

Our pilot program aimed at providing home infusion oncology treatments and other high-cost injectable drug treatments for eligible CINJ patients as an alternative to an infusion center has completed and is now a full program of CINJ. Over the 3 year program, nearly 100 patients (30+ patient per year) were enrolled into the program. Today we are caring for over 60 per year.

The Pharmacy at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is also an NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Pharmacy that provides support for Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey members who conduct research with investigational agents in human subjects. The overall goal of this shared resource is to support the rigorously reviewed Rutgers Cancer Institute's clinical research by providing an efficient, centralized service of extraordinary quality to support the RWJBH Health-System's participation in select clinical trials.

The specific goals of this shared resource are to:

- Develop and maintain proper methods for preparation and handling of investigational agents
- Ensure that all issues involving drug accountability, dosing, and administration are (a) clearly defined in the protocol; (b) consistent with Rutgers Cancer Institute, State, and Federal policies and procedures; and (c) followed to ensure the proper use of all study agents in clinical trials
- Facilitate procurement, maintain accountability, and provide secure and appropriate storage for all investigational agents, and ensure that these agents are dispensed according to protocol guidelines, for the basic science programs, the Research Pharmacy shared resource procures investigational and commercial agents for laboratory use
- Assist Cancer Institute investigators, along with the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's Office of Human Research Services (OHRS), in maintaining regulatory compliance
- Provide expert consultation on the use of new agents regarding drug interactions, sequencing, formulation and administration



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Pharmacy Services

**Jessica Stemple, PharmD,**  
BCOP, CCP  
Assistant Director/  
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**Christian Gabel, PharmD**  
Oncology Pharmacist,  
Manager Research  
Pharmacy

## Integrated Service Line

- Provide an additional level of quality assurance in clinical trials through a) verification of informed consent; b) verification of eligibility and enrollment through the OHRS before dispensing any agent to clinical trial participants; c) verification of dose assignments in phase I trials; d) verification of investigators' active National Cancer Institute (NCI) status; e) review of dose modifications; f) assessment for potential drug interactions; g) maintenance of randomization schemas for investigator-initiated trials; and h) assessment of patient adherence for self-administered protocol therapy

**Preparation and Handling for all Investigational Agents:** The shared resource develops methods and manages the preparation and delivery of investigational agents in a USP 797/800 compliant clean room. Policies and procedures are in place that ensure (1) proper storage, handling, and dispensing of investigational agents according to protocol; (2) dose modifications occur as described in the protocol; and (3) all federal and state regulatory requirements are met. It also develops policies for the management of investigational agents used in Cancer Institute multicenter trials through the RWJBarnabas Partnership of hospitals and our Affiliates for clinical trials. All policies and procedures are based on NCI guidelines and the recommendations of the Research Pharmacy Advisory Committee.

**Drug Accountability, Dosing, and Administration:** All protocols are reviewed by the shared resource before activation to ensure that drug accountability, preparation, dosing, and administration are clearly defined. This helps to minimize the risk of medication errors and protocol deviations.

**Procurement:** The shared resource works with principal investigators and sponsoring organizations to coordinate the procurement of Investigational drugs. Upon receipt of the investigational agent, all shipping documents are verified against materials received, lot numbers, and expiration dates. It also obtains, tracks, and supplies commercial agents for clinical trials and for laboratory use by Rutgers Cancer Institute members.

**Storage and Security:** All investigational agents are stored in the shared resource area, which is double locked at all times, and is accessible only by licensed staff members. There is adequate, room-temperature storage space, refrigeration, and freezers (one  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  and two  $-86^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Monitoring of these temperatures occurs every ten minutes and is documented with SmartVue™, a wireless remote temperature monitoring system with daily backup to the Rutgers Cancer Institute's server.

**Dispensing:** Research Pharmacists directly oversee the handling of investigational agents and ensure that preparation of agents is performed according to the respective protocol and accordance with FDA and NCI guidelines for investigational drug use. The staff is responsible for verifying study agents are dispensed only for patients on IRB-approved clinical trials, the most up-to-date informed consent is signed by both the patient and an approved investigator, patient eligibility and has been enrolled by OHRS via Oncore®. The pharmacy staff in collaboration with OHRS develops CPOE order-entry for each protocol. All medication orders are cross-referenced to the protocol for verification of dosing, dosing modification, laboratory data, toxicity information.

**Drug Accountability:** Drug accountability is performed as outlined in the NCI Drug Accountability guidelines. The Department recently expanded to incorporate Vestigo® for drug accountability documentation and are in the process of roll-out across the Health-System.

**Expert Consultation for Clinical Trial Development:** Occurs during the development of clinical trials. The staff focuses on the development of exclusion criteria for concomitant medications that may interact with the protocol agent, dose modifications for renal, pulmonary, liver or cardiac function based on the preclinical toxicity profile of a new agent for a phase I trial and collaborate on the sequence of administration of protocol agents in the treatment plan. Supportive care medications on investigator-initiated trials are developed and weekly Phase I Group meetings and in protocol activation meetings continuously and prospectively address these issues.

**Drug Formulation:** The shared resource has the capacity to formulate and handle new agents including biologicals (e.g., bi-specific t-cell engagers, Coxsackievirus A21, talimogene laherparepvec, PANVAC, fowlpox vaccines) and natural products (e.g., tocopherols). The shared resource staff works with OHRS and sponsoring regulatory agencies to achieve approval of new formulations. It also works with institutional safety committees to make sure that each potentially hazardous compound or agent is handled and dispensed in compliance with Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and in concordance with all safety procedures for the agent.

**Quality Assurance:** The shared resource is responsible for ensuring that all study agents are dispensed only for patients on IRB-approved clinical trials and only after the most recently IRB-approved consent form has been signed by both the patient and an approved investigator. Staff also verifies that a signed and dated consent form is in the chart, re-verifies patient eligibility, and confirms with OHRS that the patient is enrolled onto a study before dispensing a protocol agent. Additionally, a pharmacist obtains a comprehensive medication history from the patient to minimize the risk of adverse drug interactions.

All the IRB-approved investigator-initiated clinical trials are first translated into the EMR by the OHRS Clinical Trials Informatics Specialist and then all investigational agents are inputted by the Informatics Pharmacist and verified by the shared resource.

**For randomized, investigator-initiated clinical trials,** the shared resource obtains the randomization schema from the Biometrics shared resource. It also performs the randomization and maintains the randomization codes for possible decoding in the event of a medical emergency.

**Research Pharmacy Services for Multicenter Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials:** For network trials conducted at network institutions, the shared resource is responsible for supporting and inspecting the pharmacy at these sites and training their staff.

## Integrated Service Line

### RWJBarnabas Health Consolidated Pharmacy Services

RWJBarnabas Health Consolidated Pharmacy Services (CPS) is a wholly owned pharmacy service company of RWJBarnabas Health. It is a centralized pharmacy providing system hospitals with quality sterile products. It was created to help control costs for the system by consolidating job functions, reducing waste and passing on just costs to the system hospitals. RWJBarnabas Health Consolidated Pharmacy Services began in 2004 providing TPN for both adult and NICU inpatients. In 2009, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services added compounding small and large volume sterile medications to its services, continuously adding products for the system hospitals upon request. In 2013, it started providing barcoded repacking services for oral medications that are not available in unit dose as part of a strategic plan to barcode medications in preparation for converting to bedside barcode medication administration at all of our acute care facilities. Pharmacy also provides non-sterile hazardous compounds for system patients.

CPS has added Code Cart Centralization to the services offered. After the Clinical Council standardized the code cart contents, CPS will now provide code cart services, where we fill and replace outdated items for each code cart. We use Inmar software to track lot and expiration dates for each tray. We can now track what cart each tray goes into and the location of each cart. RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services has been leading the sterile products collaborative, standardizing policies and monitoring USP 795/797/800 compliance.



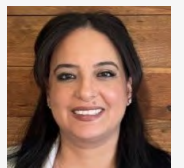
**Suzanne Sesta, RPh, BCSCP**  
Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Anita McNeill, RPh, BCSCP**  
Director of Pharmacy, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Fernando Oliveira, BA Biology**  
System Director of Pharmaceutical Procurement, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Nakia Kandas, RPh, BCSCP**  
IV Supervisor, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Jolly Shah**  
Clinical Technician Supervisor, RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



## Integrated Service Line

### RWJBarnabas Health Centralized Pharmacy Warehouse

The Centralized Pharmacy Warehouse provides non-compounded products to all RWJBH hospitals. The Centralized Warehouse model allows for the procurement of bulk, reduced- cost purchases and the direct purchases of products on national shortage. Direct purchases prevents interruptions in supply chain management and patient care.

Specific products are brought into the warehouse as needed based on mitigation for future possible supply interruptions and prior to known price increases. Smart bulk purchases lead to large cost savings to the RWJBH system.

In 2023, the Centralized Warehouse continued its support of the RWJBarnabas Health System by procuring products that were short in supply. Specific items included: Bicillin, Cleocin, Solu-Medrol, Solu-Cortef, & Heparin. 2023 was also a very difficult year in the procurement of many oncology products. Such products included: Carboplatin, Cisplatin, Fluorouracil, Decitabine, Dacarbazine, Methotrexate, & Vinblastine. This crucial procurement was able to take place through the key partnerships and direct accounts with important manufacturers and other distributors.

In addition, in 2023, the Centralized Warehouse had over \$ 2 million dollars of savings to the system. The Centralized Warehouse was also able to provide another \$900,000 of products that were in short supply.

Flu vaccine procurement and dispensing to the system hospitals continued in 2023.

Over 37,000 doses of Fluarix, 11,000 doses of Fluzone, and 5,500 doses of Fluzone High Dose were sent out to system hospitals and affiliates.

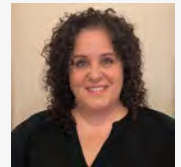
For 2024, the goal is to continue to expand our bulk cost-savings model by bringing in high usage, high dollar products. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with manufacturers and vendors to bring in any product that the system may need during supply chain interruptions in 2024.



**Fernando Oliveira,**  
BA Biology  
System Director of  
Pharmaceutical  
Procurement, RWJBH  
Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



**Bryan McCormick,**  
CPhT, MBA  
Corporate Director 340B  
Program, Corporate  
Pharmacy



**Stavroula Pace**  
Supervisor Clinical  
Distribution, RWJBH  
Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services

## Integrated Service Line

### RWJBarnabas Health Home Infusion Care Division

RWJBarnabas Health infusion division provides medications to be infused at home, along with nutritional support, infusion pumps, supplies and nursing care. Home infusion offers a convenient, cost-effective alternative to lengthy hospital stays or frequent outpatient visits. RWJBarnabas Health infusion and specialty pharmacy is accredited by The Joint Commission and has board certified sterile compounding pharmacists, PICC certified and CRNI nurses to deliver the highest level of care to patients at home.

#### Service Include:

- Comprehensive assessments and educational materials with individualized patient and caregiver training
- Highly skilled pharmacists and registered dietician coordinate care with physicians to determine appropriate TPN formulas, drug dosages and can customize sterile compounds in our state-of-the-art clean room for the safest, most precise treatment regimens
- Therapies that are coordinated by the pharmacy staff are: total parenteral nutrition, antibiotic, antifungal, antivirals, chemotherapy, pain management, hydration, inotropic therapy, antiemetic and enteral therapy
- Free, dependable same day delivery of medication and supplies to the patients' home, office or other designated location, with inventory monitoring to ensure ample supplies
- Reimbursement specialists handle all insurance verifications, authorizations, claims and billing
- Office hours Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM
- 24-Hour On Call Nurse and Pharmacist for any issues
- Bilingual staff and on-call translators to help to ensure that our non-English speaking patients fully understand their therapy regimens
- Liaisons are staffed at CBMC, NBI, NBR, RAH, SOM, CMMC, JCMC, CMC and MMC to assist our system case managers with safe and timely home infusion discharges.

#### Therapies Provided:

- Anti-Infectives
- TPN
- Chemotherapy
- Inotropes
- Hydration
- Pain
- Biologics
- Chelation

#### Nursing Care Provided:

Caring, knowledgeable staff of IV, PICC certified, CRNI and Oncology certified nurses have years of experience in all aspects and genres of home infusion care. Our nursing staff and our technician liaison work with patients to help them comfortably transition from hospital to home infusion delivering one-on-one, customized patient education and hands-on training for self administration of medication. Nurses perform regular home visits to monitor patient progress throughout their therapy, and provide ongoing clinical care, assessment and maintenance of intravenous sites and equipment.

- Medtronic Pump Refills and Reprogramming
- Central Line Care
- Peripheral Catheter Care
- Port-A-Cath Care
- IM and SubQ Injections
- Midline Insertion



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**Francisco Vila, PharmD, CSP**  
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**Fernando Oliveira, BA Biology**  
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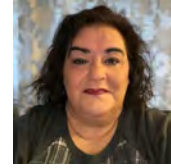
**Mary Pulidore, BSN, RN**  
Director of Nursing, RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Lisbeth Ruiz**  
Reimbursement Manager,  
RWJBH Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



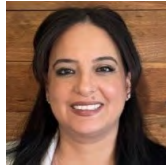
**Bonnie Boyle**  
Intake Supervisor,  
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**Mary DiGeso Bowles, BSN, RN**  
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**Scotlyn Gaither, MHA**  
Liaison Supervisor,  
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**Nakia Kandas, RPh,  
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IV Supervisor, RWJBH  
Infusion and Specialty  
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**Stavroula Pace**  
Supervisor Clinical Distribution,  
RWJBH Infusion and Specialty  
Pharmacy Services



**Jolly Shah**  
Clinical Technician  
Supervisor, RWJBH Infusion  
and Specialty Pharmacy  
Services

## Integrated Service Line

### RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy

RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy is a wholly-owned specialty pharmacy services company of RWJBarnabas Health focusing on high cost, high touch medication therapies for patients with complex disease states. We offer complete specialty care, with a range of medications, therapies and services to manage conditions easier.

Medications in specialty pharmacy range from oral to cutting edge injectable and biologic products. The disease states treated range from cancer, hepatitis, HIV, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, transplant, to rare genetic conditions. The Specialty Pharmacy holds accreditations with The Joint Commission, URAC and ACHC. These accreditations differentiate our organization from other healthcare providers exhibiting distinction. We also have board-certified specialty pharmacists on our staff.

#### Services Provided

Our experienced specialty trained pharmacists and nurses understand the complexities of our patients' conditions and are available to offer support including:

- Injection training
- Medication side-effect management
- Appropriateness of therapy assessment
- Periodic assessments and reassessments
- Ongoing monitoring for safety and efficacy of prescribed medicines
- Financial Assistance
- 24-hour on call pharmacist and nurse
- Free delivery of medications

#### Insurance Coordination

- Most specialty prescriptions require prior authorization
- Insurance experts coordinate with the patient's physician and health plan to facilitate the process



**Suzanne Sesta, RPh, BCSCP**  
Vice President of RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Ronald Simbulan, RPh**  
Director of Pharmacy, RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Fernando Oliveira, BA Biology**  
System Director of Pharmaceutical Procurement, RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Francisco Vila, PharmD, CSP**  
Director of RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



**Sharon Bednarz, CPhT, BA-HCA**  
Pharmacy Technician Manager, RWJBH Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services



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- 03 Education
- 04 Financial
- 05 Quality & Safety
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## Advocacy

The **RWJBarnabas Health** Pharmacy Enterprise is an integrated part of the health care team. Pharmacists are responsible for ensuring safe, effective, and appropriate medication use for all patients

### In 2023, the Acute Care Service Line workload statistics include:

- The team prevented more than 27,746 adverse reactions
- The team intervened and prevented in excess of 91,781 medication errors from occurring
- There were more than 28 million doses dispensed
- The number of medication orders verified was more than 8.2 million
- The median turn around time for Cerner sites to process a STAT order was 6.7 minutes
- There was a 6.1 minute median turn around time to process a routine order at both Cerner and Epic sites
- The pharmacists performed more than 1.1 million clinical activities
- The pharmacists performed in excess of 125,631 laboratory assessments
- The pharmacy technicians performed more than 115,643 activities
- Performed greater than 30,636 Antibiotic Stewardship activities
- More than 64,685 patients were seen directly by a pharmacist
- More than 1,160 ambulatory activities performed by a pharmacist across the continuum of care

### Members of our team were named to a state or national organization and editorial board leadership positions:

#### ASHP

- Business Development and System Integration Section Advisory Group
- Pediatric Section Advisory Group Chair
- PGY1 Program Reviewer
- PGY2 Program Reviewer
- Poster Reviewer
- Standardize 4 Safety Pediatric Advisory Committee
- Section of Pharmacy Practice Leaders Educational Steering
- Organizer Professor Walk Rounds for Posters
- Perioperative Care PRN Communication Board Member
- PRN Secretary/Treasurer
- PRN Research Committee Member
- Relations Committee Member
- Task Force

#### ACHE

- Fellow

#### ACPE

- Field reviewer for Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

#### American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)

- Annual Meeting Student Poster Competition Abstract Reviewer
- Annual Meeting Program Committee Member
- Annual Meeting Speaker/Topic Selection Subcommittee Member
- Pharmacy Practice Section Faculty Mentoring Program Mentor
- Laboratory Instructors Special Interest Group
  - Immediate Past Chair
  - Mentoring Program Mentor
  - Nominations Committee Chair
  - Resolutions Committee Chair

#### NJSHP

- Annual Meeting Planning Committee Co-chair
- Continuing Pharmacy Education Program Administrator
- Director of Public Policy
- Director of Social Media
- Director of Technician Affairs
- Educational affairs committee
- Member & Abstract reviewer, Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- Member, Public Policy and Advocacy Committee

#### ACCP

- CritCare PRN Communications Committee
- Fellow for Academic Leadership Fellowship Program
- Emergency Medicine PRN – Media Committee Member Co-chair
- Futures Grant Reviewer
- Member, Research Affairs Committee

- Self-Care Therapeutics/Nonprescription Medicines Special Interest Group Membership Task Force Member

#### American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

- Contributed Papers Program Abstract Reviewer
- Contributed Papers Program Poster Judge

# Advocacy

## Annals of Pharmacotherapy

- Peer Reviewer

## American Thoracic Society

- Pharmacy Working Group Section Co-Chair

## Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) Subcommittee

- Voting Member

## Big Ten Academic Alliance - Pharmacy Assessment Collaborative (BTAA-PAC)

- Member

## Big Ten Academic Alliance - Skills-Based Education and Assessment Collaborative (BTAA S-BEAC)

- Member

## Board of Pharmacy Specialties

- Critical Care Board Certification Exam study team member
- Geriatric Pharmacy Specialty Council member

## Breakpoint Working Group

- Co-Chair

## Coordinated Family Care (CFC)

- Board of Directors

## Current Pharmacology Reports

- Section Editor

## New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services

- Member of Interagency Council on Osteoporosis

## New Jersey Pharmacists Association

- Membership Committee Member
- New Jersey Delegate to APhA
- Student Academy Steering Committee Chair

## New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC)

- NJRC Program Ambassador

## Rho Chi Society

- Chapter Awards Task Force Member
- President
- Student Executive Council Task Force Chair
- Town Hall Task Force Member

## Society of Critical Care Medicine

- Abstract Reviewer
- Board Appointment
- Committee Member

## Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists (SIDP)

- International Task Force Member
- Reviewer - Antimicrobial Stewardship Certification Program

## The Consultant Pharmacist

- Editorial Boards

## Trans-Atlantic Renal Council

- Board of Trustees

**The Acute Care Service Line consists of 511 pharmacists, 376 pharmacy technicians and more than 32 support staff.** Our acute care pharmacy team is deployed in both centralized and decentralized staffing models. The inpatient decentralized model operates to verify orders on the patient care units, and attending rounds and counseling patients. The decentralized model is supported by computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE), automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) on the units, and bed-side barcode medication administration. Technicians support the decentralized pharmacists by restocking the ADCs and delivering non-stocked medications to the units from the central pharmacy. In the central pharmacy, the technicians assist pharmacists by answering phones, filling labels, compounding and picking medications, and performing deliveries.

# Advocacy

The **RWJBarnabas Health** Pharmacy Enterprise encourages all teammates of all roles to pursue advanced certifications within their respective area of practice. These certifications are not required but are obtained by our teammates due to the self motivation to continuously improve the skill sets they offer our patients and fellow practitioners.

## Certifications in 2023:

- Thirteen teammates achieved Board Certification in 2023
- There are currently 154 teammates who currently are board certified in one of the following and 33 teammates hold more than one of the following:
  - AAHIVP, AQCD, BC-ADM, BCCCP, BCCP, BCEMP, BCGP, BCIDP, BCNSP, BCOP, BCPP, BCPPS, BCPS, BCSCP, BCTXP, CACP, CHSE, CPhT, CSPT
- The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy is proud of our teammates who have pursued these certifications and offer this expertise to our patients, families and fellow practitioners. In fact, 28% of all pharmacists in our Enterprise are Board Certified Pharmacy Practitioners



## Advocacy

The RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services Division consists of **33** pharmacists, **50** pharmacy technicians, **35** support staff and **32** nurses

### RWJBarnabas Health Home Infusion Division

The RWJBarnabas Health Home Infusion Division delivers medications, nutritional support, infusion pumps and supplies as well as comprehensive education and infusion therapy management to patients in need of home infusion therapy.

- Our nurse colleagues performed 24,707 home visits to our patients
- The division made and administered in excess of 76,607 intravenous medications
- Home infusion division achieved a 0.02 % infection rate per 1,000 patient days
- The Acute Care Service Line referred 1484 patients to our service
- The Home Infusion division provided 1780 days of free care for patients from our system

### RWJBarnabas Health Consolidated Pharmacy Services Division

Consolidated pharmacy is a centralized pharmacy providing system hospitals with quality sterile products, repackaged products and code cart trays. It is created to help control costs for the system by consolidating job functions, reducing waste and passing on just costs to the system hospitals.

- Our pharmacy team prepared and delivered more than 198,950 intravenous medications for the acute care service line
- There were in excess of 25,226 total parenteral nutrition intravenous preparations made and delivered to our Acute Care Service Line
- Our service repackaged for the Acute Care Service Line more than 367,279 tablets of medications into unit dosage forms because they were not commercial available
- Our service repackaged for the Acute Care Service Line more than 92,331 doses of liquid medications into unit dosage forms because they were not commercially available
- By utilizing this division in lieu of outsourcing and centralizing purchasing, the Health System saved **\$2,374,344**

# Advocacy

## RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy Division

The RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy Division offers a comprehensive therapy management service that focuses on providing high cost, high touch medication therapy for patients with complex disease states. Our pharmacy offers complete specialty care with a range of medications, therapies and services to manage conditions easier. Medications in specialty pharmacy vary from oral to cutting edge injectable and biological products. Our goal is to achieve superior clinical and economic outcomes while maintaining the utmost compassion and care for our patients.

- Our dedicated team filled more than 86,031 prescriptions for our patients
- The team made in excess of 24,667 deliveries to our patient's homes
- The division averages approximately 347 prescriptions on a daily basis
- Our health system referred 552 transplant patients to our service
- This division filled 14,538 specialty 340B scripts
- By utilizing this division, the health system saved **\$46,700,919** in 340B dollars
- The disease states managed under our care are:
  - Cardiology
  - Infectious Disease
  - Transplant, Solid organ transplant and Stem cell transplant
  - Hematology/Oncology
  - Inflammatory Conditions

# Advocacy

## Pharmacy Reimbursement Division

The Pharmacy Reimbursement Division (PRD) consists of a team of individuals with expertise in medication billing and reimbursement.

- Recovered over \$4.5 million in 2023 and \$55.7 million since program inception for the Acute Care Service Line, through a dedicated review and incorporation of existing clinical, reporting and surveillance applications
- Full transition in 2023 from McKesson RxO/Cardinal eRecovery to Carexst Drug Replacement/Patient Assistance Program across all Acute Care Service Line facilities resulted in over \$1.86 million cost savings.
- Payor Invoice Submissions: since implementation in April 2021, we have received over \$1.4 million in recoveries.
- Collaboration of monthly/bi-weekly forum with department
  - Managed Care
  - CAM (Clinic Administered Medications) Advisory Council
  - Prior Authorization and Grouper
  - Title X
- ERX/NDC Build for specific HCPCS
- Epic Build/Go-Live
  - Pre & Post Go-Live Support
  - WQ Review and Education
    - Enhancements
      - High Quantity reference table
  - Formulary additions/revisions
    - VitalWare import
    - Inbasket errors
  - Annual and Ad hoc Pricing Updates
  - Waste Billing Maintenance
    - Charge vs Reportable
  - JW/JZ Modifier
  - Backend Logic Build
    - ESA's
    - Leuprolide
    - Argatroban
    - Spravato
  - Custom Pharmacy User Templates
  - Inner vs Outer NDC Billing
  - New Technology Add-On Payment (NTAP) Implementation

# Advocacy

## Retail Pharmacy Network Division

The Retail Pharmacy Division members are responsible for dispensing and controlling medication, which includes both prescription and non-prescription. They also advise customers on general healthcare topics. Retail pharmacists must work to meet legal and ethical guidelines set by many different regulatory agencies, including the State Board of Pharmacy.

In 2023, the retail pharmacies dispensed 186,654 prescriptions, averaging 699 prescriptions per day, with a staff of 11 full time pharmacists. A total of 22,303 prescriptions were filled for 340B for a system benefit of \$1,854,801.

The Dispensary of Hope program, which improves medication access to under-served populations by providing donated medications at no charge, was maintained at five retail locations. The Dispensary of Hope is a non-profit drug distributor, whose mission is to transform lives by creating pathways for donated medicine to reach individuals in need and without access. Our system has the only retail pharmacies authorized to provide this program in the state of NJ.

The retail pharmacy network continues to build upon and improve its current services which include home delivery, text messaging pickup availability, and refill reminders. Pharmacies provide clinical services to support care transitions, adult immunizations, medication adherence, and medication therapy management (MTM). The retail pharmacy staff is also involved in community outreach programs, brown bag events, and blood pressure screenings. At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, the retail pharmacy initiated and built programs with the departments of bariatric surgery, emergency, maternal fetal medicine, geriatrics and colorectal surgery.

In 2023, the retail pharmacy generated more than \$33,485,914 dollars in revenue with net benefit in excess of \$696,003 dollars.

**In 2023, the retail pharmacies:**

- Went live on Epic Willow Ambulatory at the BH Retail Pharmacy at JCMC, MMC, NBI and Greenville
- Maintained the Dispensary of Hope program at five retail pharmacy locations
- Provided 128 outreach programs at 27 locations with over 1,500 attendees
- Developed numerous disease state focus patient education materials

# Advocacy

## 340B Drug Pricing Program Division

The 340B Program continues to meet its original goal of helping eligible patients and hospitals make the most of scarce resources while saving taxpayers money. The RWJBarnabas Health 340B covered entities are committed to caring for the vulnerable and use 340B savings to stretch otherwise limited resources to enhance services and increase access. For patients, this means affordable medications, expanded access to community-based primary and specialty care, and help managing chronic conditions. This program supports all these benefits while reducing federal, state, and local health care spending.

In addition to lower costs and affordable medications, our programs support better care and better health outcomes allowing us to provide more services and offset losses from providing care without compensation.

Throughout 2023 the Corporate Pharmacy 340B Team:

- Welcomed our newest team member, Rahul Nakrani, to the Corporate Pharmacy 340B Team
- Remained focused on elevating responsibilities related to auditing hospital pharmacies and contracted pharmacies along with supplying compliance tools, 340B training and other support services.
- Helped transition 5 covered entities to EPIC while mitigating potential WAC impact to the pharmacy budget.
- Performed audits of thousands of patient dispensations and thousands of purchasing invoices to ensure program eligibility.
- Completed 1 external audit in conjunction with hospital pharmacy personnel.
- Generated \$1.2 million in contract pharmacy revenue through manual order processing due to requests for additional manufacturer information (AMI)
- Increased contract pharmacy revenue by \$4.5 million dollars through various 340B initiatives. The largest being the utilization of Managed Medicaid which accounted for \$2.6 million of the increased revenue.
- Aided in the health system's GPO conversion.

As federal dollars shift and resources become scarce, it is critical that health centers participate in programs like this that will continue to increase patient access and expand services. The 340B Program will enable health centers to increase access to affordable medication, which will ultimately improve outcomes, and assist in overcoming the impact of the decline in federal and state funding.

# Advocacy

## Ambulatory Care Division

The Ambulatory Care Division consists of 8 pharmacists who act as health care extenders, offering services such as patient counseling, medication reconciliation, and chronic disease state management which can optimize medication use while reducing costs, side effects, and readmissions.

- More than 1160 ambulatory care interventions were performed by the division
- The most common types of intervention categories include:
  - Transitions of Care
  - Patient Counseling
  - Laboratory Assessment
  - Modifying and Clarifying Therapies—including brand to generic change, cost, inappropriate dose, and efficacy
  - Value-Based Measures
  - Adherence counseling and diabetes management/self-monitoring
  - Medication classes most commonly assessed included cholesterol lowering medications, anticoagulants, anti-diabetic agents, and anti-hypertensives
  - The division is represented on the Patient and Family Advisory Councils to support aligning our treatments with patient needs

# Community

## Care Continuum

### **The RWJBarnabas Health Foundational Care Continuum strategy is centered around Transitions of Care.**

Transitions of Care is defined as a set of actions designed to ensure the coordination and continuity of health care as patients transfer between different locations or different levels of care within the same location. Locations include hospitals, sub-acute and post-acute nursing homes, the patient's home, primary and specialty care offices, and long-term care facilities. Transitional care is based on a comprehensive plan of care and the availability of health care practitioners who are well-trained in chronic care and have current information about the patient's goals, preferences, and clinical status. It includes logistical arrangements, education of the patient and family, and coordination amongst healthcare professionals involved in the transition. The Pharmacy Enterprise has engaged in several activities to aid in the health system's overall strategy of Transitions of Care such as: patient medication counseling (inpatient and outpatient), home infusion of intravenous medications, and discharge medications filled and delivered to a patients bedside prior to discharge.

### **The team has increased its presence in the area of care continuum. The following care continuum activities were completed in 2023:**

- Excess of 20,555 medication reconciliations
- More than 261 discharge counseling sessions
- More than 12,739 medication histories
- In excess of 203 transition of care activities
- Our pharmacy team continued to extend their service outside of the Acute Care Service Line to physician office practices and clinics. In 2023, Embedded ambulatory care pharmacy specialists provided over 8100 medication encounters with more than 3450 individual patients
- Retail Pharmacy Network Division's delivery service to patient's homes provided more than 705 deliveries representing 1,413 prescriptions
- The Meds to Beds program processed 13,381 prescriptions for 5,403 patients
- Our RWJBH Home Infusion Division nursing colleagues performed more than 24,707 home infusion visits
- RWJBH Home Infusion provided 274 hydration only visits on behalf of CINJ and RWJ New Brunswick, generating an additional \$197,408 revenue opportunity
- More than 1,160 ambulatory activities performed by a pharmacist

## Community

Past polls have traditionally held pharmacists in high esteem for such characteristics as trust, ethics, and honesty. Creating access to pharmacist's unique medication knowledge base is a key focus for our community outreach programs. Improving the pharmaceutical care and disease state understanding should never stop at the doors of a hospital or doctor's office, but should extend into the community. The programs that were completed in 2023 helped to improve medication and disease state knowledge among patients within our community. Patient education is critical to improving their compliance with medications, understanding of disease states, and comfort in communicating with health providers.

**The Pharmacy Enterprise provided over 158 community outreach programs in 2023 which included:**

- Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving
- Alma Beatty Health and Wellness Fair
- Better Breathers Club
- BizFest and Wellness Expo
- Brown Bag at Cardiac Rehab
- Community Coat Drive
- COVID Vaccine & Testing Clinic
- Crane's Mill Assisted Living Facility
- Flu vaccine clinics
- Heart-to-Heart American Heart Month Event
- International Friends Club
- LiveWell center
- Middlesex County Fire Academy
- Monmouth Medical Center Healthcare Explorers Post
- Newark Hall of Records
- Older Adult and Falls Prevention Awareness Event
- School Outreach
- Stroke Awareness Event
- Stroke Support Group Medication Counseling
- Toy Drive Donation

- The Retail Pharmacy Network Division continues to maintain and expand the Dispensary of Hope program
- RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services provided free medications to indigent patients for a total of \$185,852



# Community

## **340B Drug Pricing Program**

The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise fully participates and remains in compliance with the 340B Drug Pricing Program as a means to help our surrounding communities. The 340B Drug Pricing Program is a U.S. federal government program created in 1992 that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations at significantly reduced prices. The intent of the program is to allow health care organizations to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services. The 340B eligible hospitals within RWJBarnabas Health are: Clara Maass Medical Center, Children's Specialized Hospital, Jersey City Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, RWJ New Brunswick, the Hemophilia Treatment Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

**The Retail Pharmacy Network Division** dispensed 3,209 prescriptions under the charity program (Dispensary of Hope) that offers free medications to financially qualified patients.

**The Retail Pharmacy Network** in kind dollars, sponsored by the hospital, provides medications to patients in need. Clara Maass Medical Center \$23,218, Jersey City Medical Center \$61,690, Monmouth Medical Center \$29,217, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center \$167,852, and Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center \$33,161 for a total of \$315,138.

**RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy Services Divisions** provided \$316,195 in kind medications to our indigent patients.

# Education

The Pharmacy Enterprise Team Members delivered **43 oral presentations** and **27 poster presentations** at the following International, National, Regional and Local conferences

- Academic Day
- American Association of College of Pharmacy Annual Meeting
- American Association of Psychiatry Pharmacy
- American Medical Association
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Annual Quality Fair
- Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists Annual meeting
- CME presentation at RWJ Hamilton hospital
- Eastern States Conference
- Grand Rounds

- Heart Transplant Group
- Infectious Disease Society of America
- International Conference on Life Long Learning in Pharmacy
- Medical Grand Rounds
- New Jersey Society of Health System Pharmacist Annual Meeting
- Nursing Education
- Pediatric Grand Rounds
- RWJ Fitness Center Community Education
- Society of Critical Care Meeting
- Society of General Internal Medicine Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting
- Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists

The Pharmacy Team completed **65 formal lectures** within the health system.

- ASHP Midyear Educational Session
- Community Education - Crisis Intervention Team Program
- Community Education - Somerset Men's Club
- Critical Care Nursing Course
- Medical Education - Emergency Department Nurses
- Medical Resident Education - Emergency
- Medical Resident Education - Infectious Disease
- Medical Resident Education - Internal Medicine
- Medical Resident Education - Pain Management
- Medical Resident Education - Pediatrics
- Medical Student Education - Pediatrics

**The Pharmacy Enterprise provided advanced clinical clerkship rotations to over 581 PharmD Students.** The training was provided by staff members with adjunct faculty appointments at the following colleges of pharmacy:

- Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
- Fairleigh Dickinson School of Pharmacy
- St. Josephs University
- Shenandoah University

# Education



**Daniel T. Abazia, PharmD,  
BCPS, CPPS**  
Director, PGY2  
Medication-Use Safety and  
Policy Residency, RWJ  
University Hospital at New  
Brunswick,  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
Ernest Mario School of  
Pharmacy

## Medication-Use Safety and Information Center (legacy Drug Information Center)

The Medication-Use Safety and Information Center (MUSIC) is responsible for responding to medication information and pharmacovigilance requests from the RWJBH system and public. The MUSIC team includes a director who is a faculty member of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP), PGY2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy resident(s), J&J Medical Information fellow(s), and ~ 15 APPE students from EMSOP per year. The Center has become a national clearinghouse for Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) and medication interaction information. Additionally, the MUSIC team contributes to med-use safety and policy of the RWJBH system by:

- Developing formulary monographs and class reviews for CINJ, RWJUH, and RWJBH
- Conducting medication use evaluations (MUE)
- Developing, revising and publishing formulary and medication safety-related newsletters, bulletins, etc.
- Developing and revising policies, procedures, pathways, guidelines, ie. RWJBH COVID-19 and REMS program guidelines
- Investigating medication error/adverse drug event reports
- Serving as independent investigators for apparent cause (ACA) and root cause analyses (RCA)
- Tracking/trending medication errors via dashboarding/analytics
- Contributing to the practice of pharmacy and medication use through research and publications

### Accomplishments, June - December 2023

- Expansion from one to two J&J medical information fellows
- Medication information responses: 166
- Monographs created/revised: 26
- Learners precepted: 3 - PGY2 MUSP residents, 1 - Medical Information fellow, 4 - APPE students
- National platform/poster presentations: 2

# Education

**The American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP)** is a professional membership organization that has taken responsibility for accrediting pharmacy postgraduate year one (PGY1) and post graduate year two (PGY2) residency training programs for the pharmacy profession. A PGY1 pharmacy residency training is an organized, directed, accredited program that builds upon knowledge, skills and abilities gained from an accredited professional pharmacy degree program. The first-year residency enhances general competencies in managing medication-use systems and supports optimal medication therapy outcomes for patients with a broad range of disease states.

Residents in PGY1 residency programs are provided the opportunity to accelerate their growth beyond entry-level professional competence in patient-centered care and in pharmacy operational services, and to further the development of leadership skills that can be applied in any position and in any practice setting. PGY1 residents acquire substantial knowledge required for skillful problem solving, strengthen their professional values and attitudes, and advance the growth of their clinical judgment.

PGY2 pharmacy residency training is an organized, directed, accredited program that builds upon the competencies established in postgraduate year one of residency training. The program is focused in a specific area of practice. The PGY2 program increases the resident's depth of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities to raise the resident's level of expertise in medication therapy management and clinical leadership in the area of focus. In those practice areas where board certification exists, graduates are prepared to pursue such certification.

## Pharmacy Residency Program

RWJBarnabas Health offers an American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP)-accredited PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency programs. Residents are given the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary care teams to enhance their skills in evidence-based, patient-centered medication management, and to perform pharmacy practice research that is presented at ASHP's Midyear Meeting and at the Eastern States Residency Conference. Learning experiences are offered in the following areas:

- Administration
- Ambulatory Care
- Cardiology
- Community Outreach
- Critical Care
- Drug Information
- Emergency Medicine
- Research
- Medication Safety
- Hospital Dispensing/Staffing
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Perioperative Services
- Psychiatry
- Transplant

As of 2023, each RWJBarnabas Health Facility offers the following number of PGY1 pharmacy residency positions per year:

- Clara Maass Medical Center: Two
- Community Medical Center: Two
- Jersey City Medical Center: Two
- Monmouth Medical Center: Two
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center: Two
- RWJ New Brunswick: Two
- RWJ Somerset: Two
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center: Four

As of 2023, each RWJBarnabas Health Facility offers the following number of PGY2 pharmacy residency positions per year:

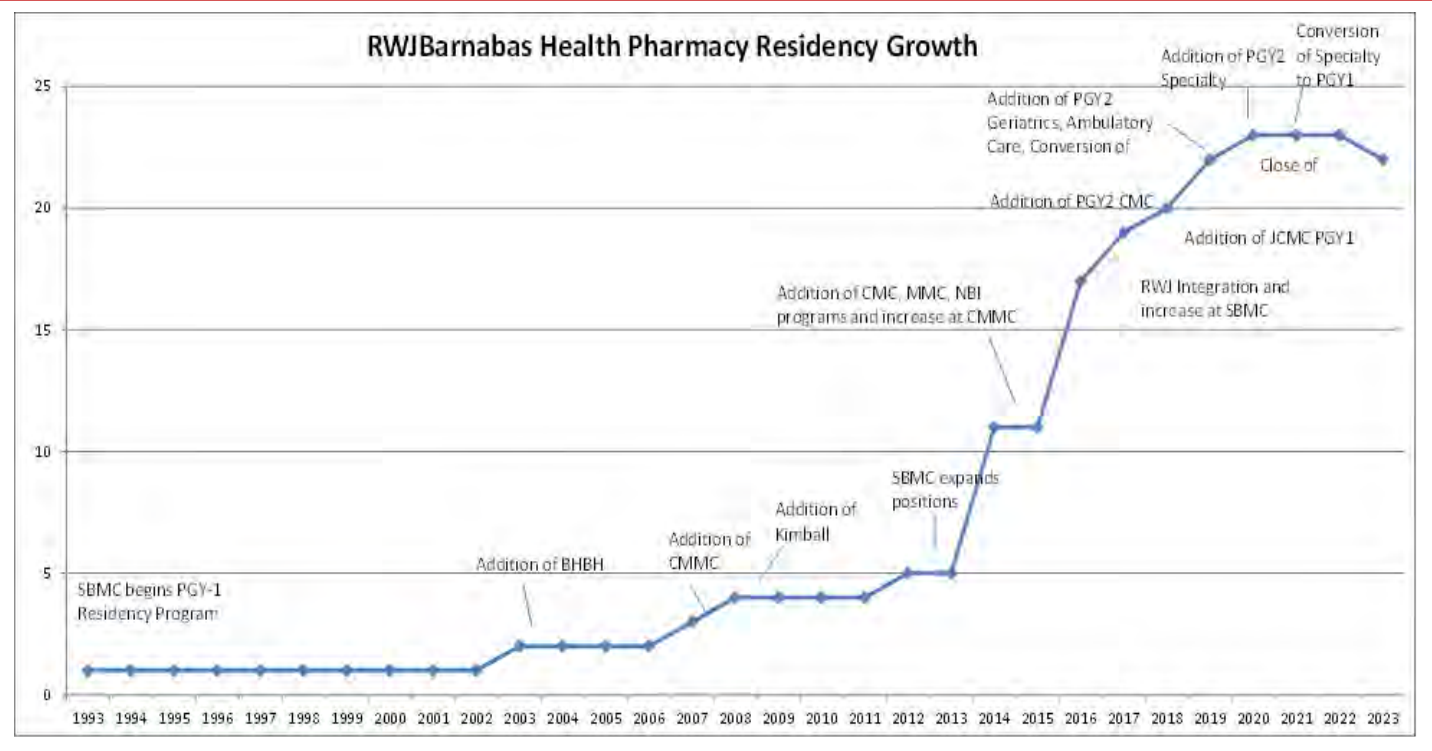
- Behavioral Health Center: One—Psychiatry
- Community Medical Center: One—Critical Care
- Corporate Pharmacy: One—Ambulatory Care
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center: One—Geriatrics

Additionally, the following sites serve as primary training locations for the listed Rutgers University PGY2 Programs:

- Monmouth Medical Center: One—Neuropsychiatry
- RWJ New Brunswick: Two—Emergency Medicine
- RWJ New Brunswick: Two—Drug Information
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center: One—Pediatrics

# Education

**RWJBarnabas Health** has made a substantial investment to the education of future pharmacy practitioners by expanding the residency programs throughout the health system. The graph below highlights the historical milestones of our program



## Residency Advocacy for 2023

- Continuation of an ASHP Midyear Newsletter
- Continuation of the Residency Annual Report
- Continuation of Leadership Forum
  - System PGY2 continue to serve as instructors
  - Big/Little Mentorship Program was continued

## Residency Marketing Changes in 2023

- RWJBarnabas Health Website updated
- RWJBarnabas health recruiting video recorded
- ASHP Directory updated
- Showcases Covered
  - Rutgers, NYSHS, DVSHS, FDU, ASHP Midyear, MCPHS
- Resident Instagram Takeover by each facility
- 1 informational webinar hosted for students
  - Managing a Virtual Midyear - October 17, 2023
- Social Media - rwjbhpharmacy: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn
- Impact - 2.1K followers across all networks. 111K users reached across networks

# Quality and Safety

## Providing high-quality, safe medical care is a primary goal at RWJBarnabas Health

As experts in medication delivery, pharmacists play an integral role in preventing and managing medication errors; however, ensuring safety in the health system is a team effort. Pharmacists need to broaden their responsibilities by taking on roles in quality and performance improvement projects. Pharmacists are well positioned to assist the healthcare system in improving quality of care as they are already established as experts in medication management processes. The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise has a strong focus on Quality Improvement including initiatives such as the Medication Use Evaluation Program.

## In 2023, the Pharmacy Enterprise medication use evaluations were the following:

- Benchmarking antibiotic use data utilizing SAAR
- Decrease the Number of Opioid Prescriptions from Emergency Departments
- Obtain Top Three Status in Net Promoter Score for RWJBarnabas Health Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy
- Maintain Infection Rate Below National Benchmark in Home Infusion
- Maintain Library Pump Compliance System-wide of 95%
- Monitoring Dosing Compliance for Direct Oral Anticoagulants

RWJBarnabas Health pharmacists continuously utilize quality improvement tools to promote appropriate medication use. A medication use evaluation (MUE) is a performance improvement method that focuses on evaluating and improving medication use processes with the goal of optimal patient outcomes. The MUE process helps to identify actual and potential medication-related problems, resolve actual medication-related problems, and prevent potential medication-related problems that could interfere with achieving optimum outcomes from medication therapy.

### Specific MUE objectives include:

- Promoting optimal medication therapy
- Preventing medication-related problems
- Evaluating effectiveness of medication therapy
- Improving patient safety
- Standardizing medication use practices
- Promoting cost-effective therapy
- Meeting or exceeding internal and external quality standards

### Medications may be selected for MUEs for any or all of the following reasons:

- Medication is known or suspected to cause adverse reactions
- Medication is known to interact with other medications
- Medication is used in the treatment of high-risk patients
- Medication is frequently prescribed
- Medication has a narrow therapeutic index
- Medication is under consideration for formulary retention, addition or deletion
- Medication is expensive

### RWJBarnabas Health pharmacists play a large role in the MUE process. Specifically, they:

- Develop the operational plan
- Work collaboratively with prescribers and other health care professionals to develop criteria for specific medications and to design effective medication use processes
- Collect, analyze, and evaluate patient-specific data to identify, resolve, and prevent medication-related problems
- Interpret and report MUE findings and recommend changes in the medication use process
- Provide education based on MUE findings

# Quality and Safety

**The RWJBarnabas Health Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP)** is a coordinated multidisciplinary effort, working in concert with the Pharmacy Infectious Diseases Collaborative, to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobials, improve patient outcomes, and mitigate the consequences of antimicrobial resistance across our hospitals and communities.

The RWJBarnabas Health ASP is grounded in the CDC Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship. The ASP has fundamental procedures in place to meet the Core Elements, including surveillance of culture and sensitivity, de-escalation and escalation, IV to oral transitioning, and renal adjustment of antimicrobial therapy. In 2023, the Pharmacy Infectious Disease Collaborative along with the RWJBarnabas Health Antimicrobial Stewardship program accomplished the following items:

Standardized dosing for extended infusion beta-lactam antibiotics across the health system

Expanded awareness of antimicrobial stewardship throughout the health system and our communities through the recognition of US Antibiotic Awareness Week

Completed 2 class reviews for antibiotics for formulary alignment across the health system

Increased the number of facilities with Gold recognition in the New Jersey Department of Health Antibiotic Stewardship Program

Future efforts of the RWJBarnabas Health ASP program will be on the measurement of guidelines compliance, additional dosing standardization and improved measurement of ASP activities.



The above graph shows RWJBarnabas Health Standardized Antimicrobial Administration Ratio (SAAR). A SAAR > 1.0 indicates greater antimicrobial than predicted. A SAAR = 1.0 indicates antimicrobial use equivalent to predicted use. A SAAR < 1.0 indicates less antimicrobial use than predicted. The red bar indicates the target SAAR 1.

# Quality and Safety

## The Opioid Use Reduction Initiative

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 750,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose. Two out of three drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an opioid. Every day, hospitals and health systems see the effects of the nation’s opioid epidemic.

RWJBarnabas Health has been working to address this public health issue for many years. The system began its work with the formation of the Tackling Addiction Task Force. This Taskforce is a multi-disciplinary group of practitioners focused on: education, prevention, recovery, intervention and treatment. The taskforce empowered the RWJBarnabas Health Emergency Room Collaborative and the Pharmacy Enterprise to create an Opioid Stewardship Program. An Opioid Stewardship program is coordination of interventions designed to improve, monitor and evaluate the use of opioids in order to support and protect human health.

This collaboration led to the development of the system DROP (Deliberate Reduction of Opioids) program led by the RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

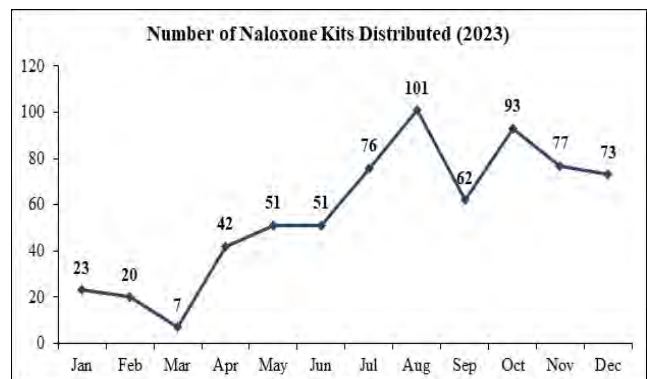
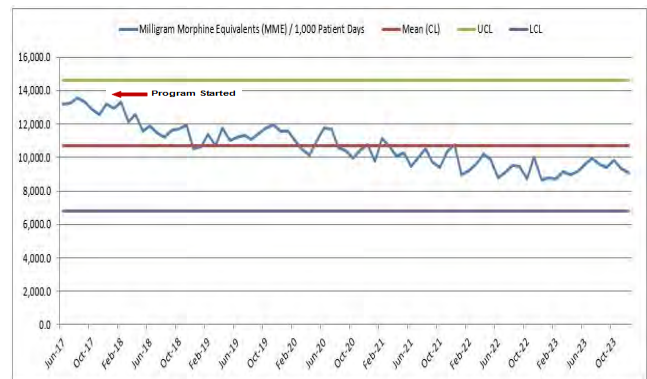
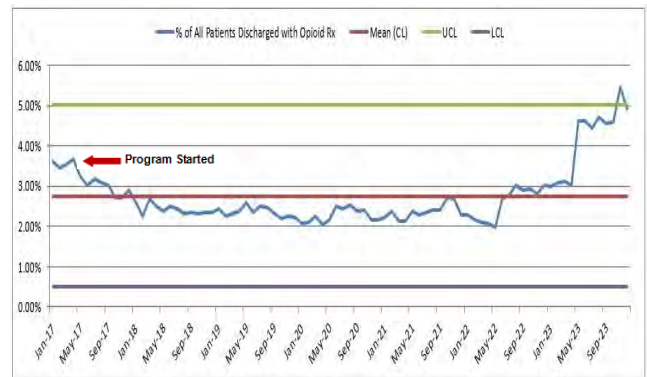
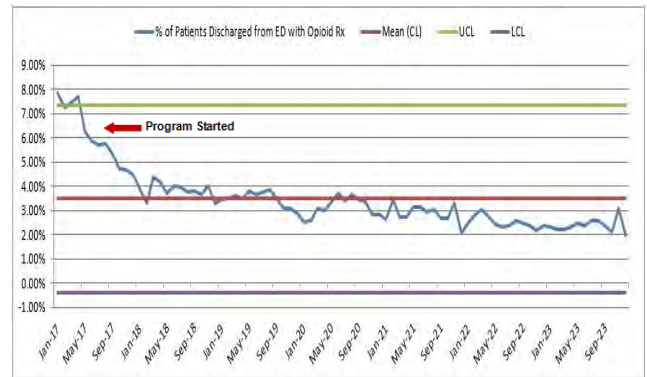
This group has completed a number of steps to reduce opioid prescribing and increase access to treatment for opioid addiction:

- Clinician education on prescribing practices
- Creation of evidence-based order sets for pain management across entire system that focus on multimodal pain management to minimize opioid use
- Creation of opioid withdrawal prevention and treatment policy and order set/protocol for all sites
- Continual monitoring of opioid and alternative agent use at all sites through data analytics report converting all opioid prescriptions to morphine equivalents.
- ED and Inpatient review of disease states with highest levels of opioid use

The RWJBarnabas Health System underwent an EHR conversion in 2023 in the majority of the acute care facilities. As a result of the conversion, better data was captured on patients discharged with opioids. Continued surveillance throughout 2024, will determine if increase extends beyond data capture conversion.

The number of patients discharged from the ED decreased **23.7%** from 2022 to 2023 and the number of ED patients discharged with an opioid prescription slightly decreased from **2.028%** in 2022 to **2.025%** in 2023. Given the **23.7%** decrease in ED discharges from 2022 to 2023, we would have expected to see **10** more ED patients discharged with an opioid prescription.

In 2022, the Pharmacy Enterprise partnered with the RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IPR) and Rutgers Opioid Overdose Prevention Network (OOPN) to begin distributing naloxone. From second to fourth quarter of 2023, 676 naloxone kits were distributed to patients through IPR’s peer recovery specialists.





# Quality and Safety

The **RWJBarnabas Health** Specialty Pharmacy Division partnered with MMIT, a national health care consulting firm, to produce a Patient Survey Program to measure key performance areas affecting patient engagement. By standardizing a performance measurement tool, the intent was to make it easier for payors, manufacturers, patients and pharmacies to adequately understand and benchmark their performance against other organizations. The survey evaluated issues such as:

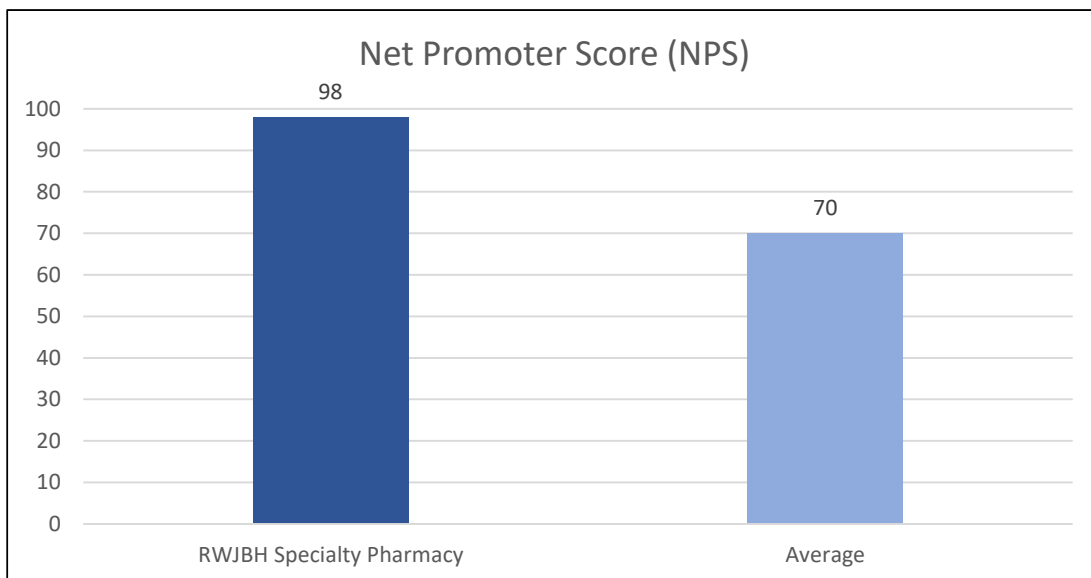
- Access
- Billing
- Overall Satisfaction
- Pharmacy / Staff Performance
- Prescription Fulfillment
- Willingness to Refer Friends or Family Members

**Key performance metrics around patient satisfaction were:**

- Prompt Call Center Interactions
- Prescription Fulfillment
- Staff Listening Skills and Empathy
- Staff Knowledge of Disease and Medication

The analysis compared other large Specialty Pharmacy Providers Net Promoter scores to the RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy. A Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a cross-industry standardized index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures a customer's overall satisfaction with a company's product or service, as well as a customer's loyalty to the brand. Determining an NPS allows for a comparison between specialty pharmacy and other service-oriented organizations in a variety of sectors.

RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy was named as the nation's top specialty pharmacy by Managed Market Insight and Technology's 2023 Patient Choice Awards in the Hospital and Health System Specialty Pharmacy category. The patient choice Awards is a national recognition for the extraordinary work that specialty pharmacies do for their patients. RWJBarnabas Health Specialty Pharmacy is leading by example in demonstrating steadfast dedication to the patient populations they serve. The finalist and winner were celebrated at an awards ceremony at Asembia's ASX23 Specialty Pharmacy Summit in Las Vegas on May 1, 2023.

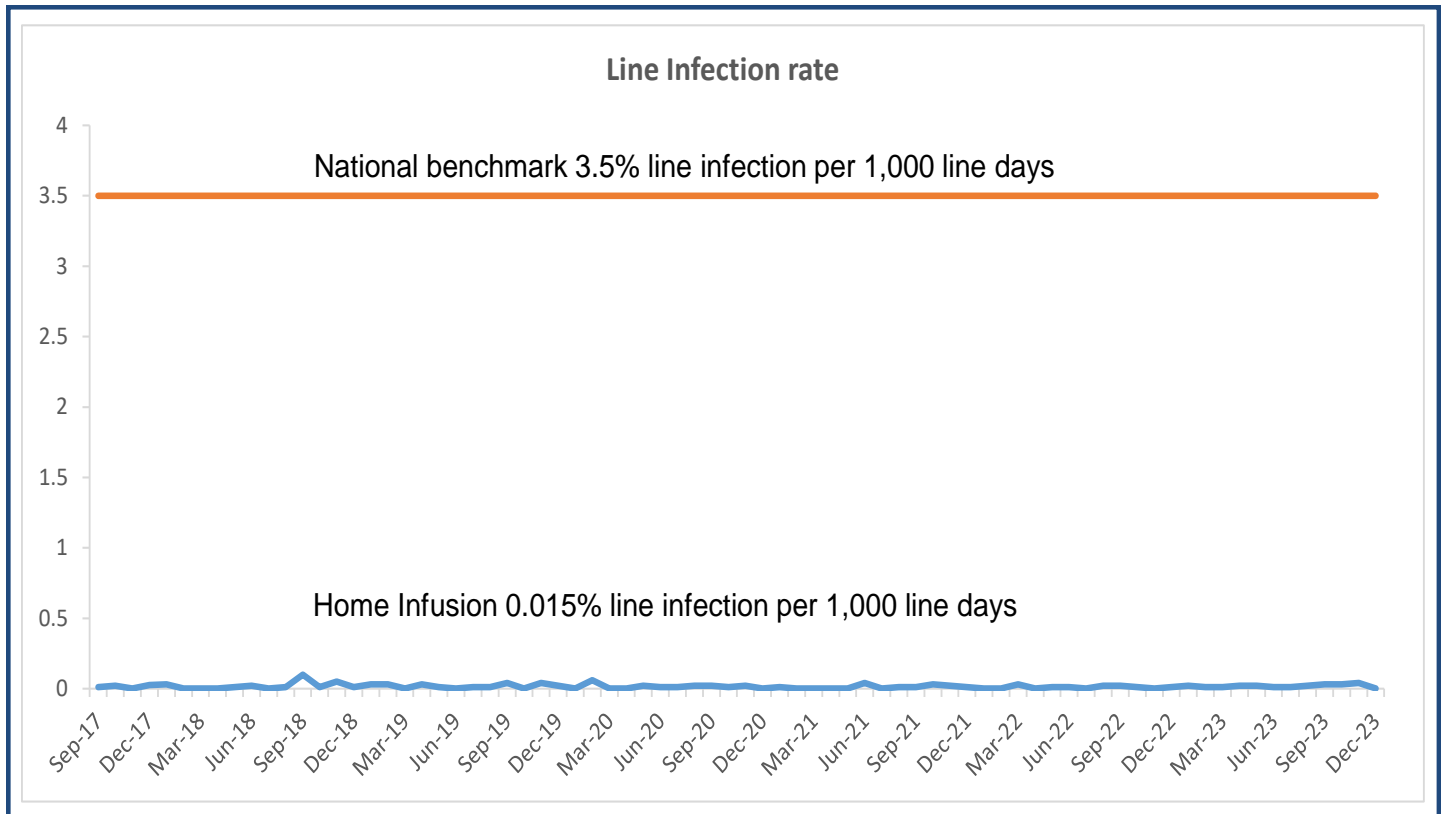


# Quality and Safety

Home infusion therapy is a treatment option for patients with a wide range of acute and chronic conditions, ranging from bacterial infections to more complex conditions such as late-stage heart failure and immune deficiencies. Home infusion therapy affords a patient independence and better quality of life, because it is provided in the comfort of the patient's home at a time that best fits his or her needs. It may also reduce the risk of hospital-acquired infections and provide improved safety and better outcomes for patients.

Diseases that may require infusion therapy include infections that are unresponsive to oral antibiotics, cancer and cancer-related pain, dehydration, congestive heart failure, Crohn's Disease, hemophilia, hepatitis, immune deficiencies, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

The **RWJBarnabas Health** Home Infusion Division through the dedication of its Home Infusion Nurses has maintained strict adherence to the Centers of Disease Control criteria for preventing intravenous line infections. Our nurses have consistently maintained an infection rate that is 18 times below the national benchmark.



# Quality and Safety

## Maintain Compliance with Intravenous Drug Library at 95%

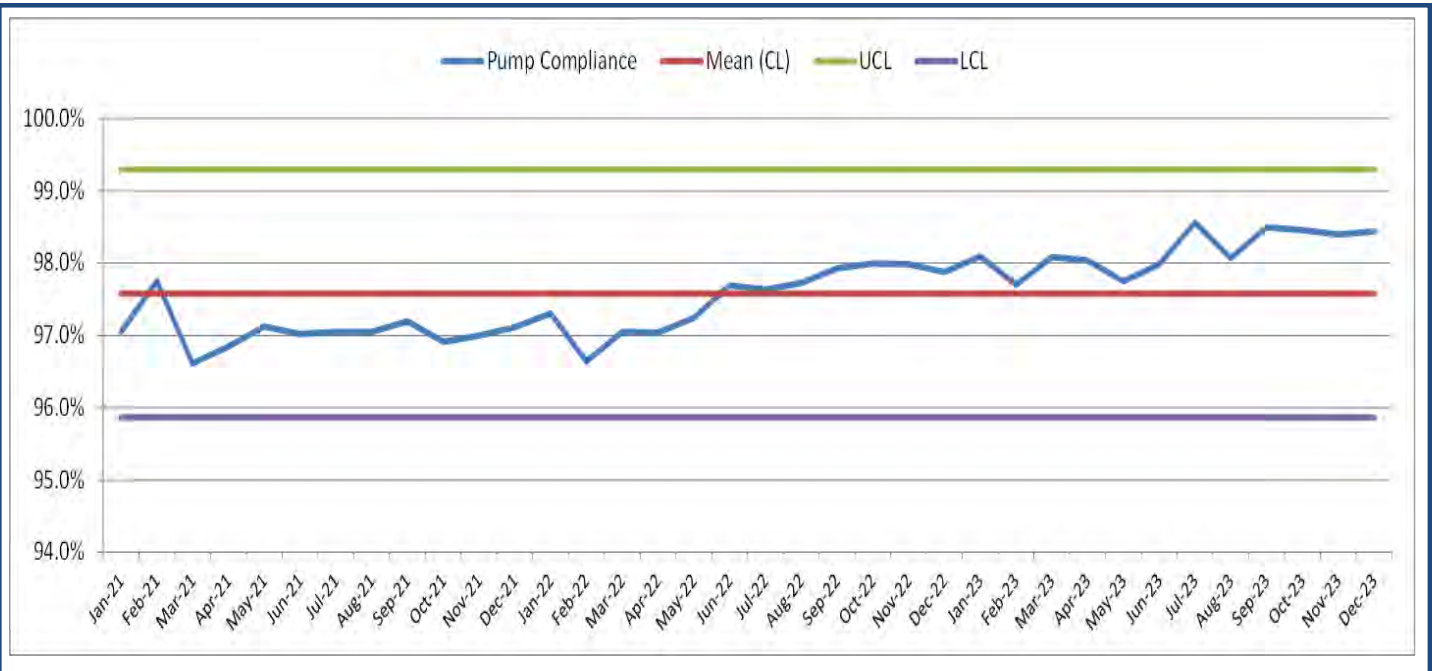
Smart infusion pumps combine computer technology and drug libraries to limit the potential for dosing errors. An infusion pump drug library allows medications to be built within care areas and with minimum and maximum limits to facilitate safe infusion medication administration. A study published in 2016 found that bypassing the smart infusion pump or the drug library accounted for about 10% of the total number of errors or policy violations relating to infusion administration<sup>1</sup>. The Joint Commission realized the importance of optimizing utilization of smart infusion pumps and built-in dose error reduction software (DERS) and issued a Sentinel Event Alert in April of 2021.<sup>2</sup>

RWJBarnabas Health had set a goal to monitor pump compliance beginning in January of 2021 and look for opportunities to optimize the DERS technology. The goal was to ensure compliance with the pump library for 95% of infusions.

RWJBarnabas Health has successfully maintained the compliance goal of 95% for 2021 to 2023. This outcome will continue to be monitored for 2024.

<sup>1</sup>Schnock KO, et al. The frequency of intravenous medication administration errors related to smart infusion pumps: A multihospital observational study. *BMJ Quality and Safety*, 2016;26(2):93-94.

<sup>2</sup>Optimizing smart infusion pump safety with DERS. Sentinel Event Alert. Issue 63, April 14 2021.



# Quality and Safety

## Monitoring Dosing Compliance for Direct Oral Anticoagulants

For more than 50 years, oral vitamin K antagonists (VKAs) – namely, warfarin – was the anticoagulant of choice for long-term treatment and prevention of arterial and venous thromboembolic events (VTE) as well as for stroke prevention in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf). Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) have grown in popularity over the last decade for patients with NVAf and VTE. DOACs have shown superiority or noninferiority to prior standards of care in reducing risk of thromboembolic complications with similar or reduced bleeding risk. In comparison to conventional treatment with VKAs, DOACs offer many treatment advantages, including fixed dosing, fewer drug and dietary interactions, rapid onset and short half-lives, as well as no monitoring requirement.

DOAC dosing poses many challenges as it varies depending on indication, patient age, renal function, weight as well as concomitant medication. Failure to take these factors into consideration can cause significant patient harm.<sup>1-3</sup> In December 2018, the Joint Commission published a national patient safety goal (NPSG) to “reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulant therapy” (NSPG 03.05.01). One of the requirements is that hospitals use “approved protocols and evidence-based practice guidelines...that address medication selection.”<sup>4</sup>

The RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) system formulary includes apixaban, rivaroxaban, and dabigatran. Due to the complexity of dosing as well as the high-risk nature of the medication, safety measures like pre-approved order sets are utilized to prevent medication errors. The pharmacy departments across the system have collaborated to update/add to the current practice to assist in ensuring patient safety and quality in ordering DOACs.

The purpose of this system-wide medication use evaluation is to assess the compliance of DOAC orders with the appropriate indication and dosing recommendation found in the RWJBH order set and the respective package inserts.

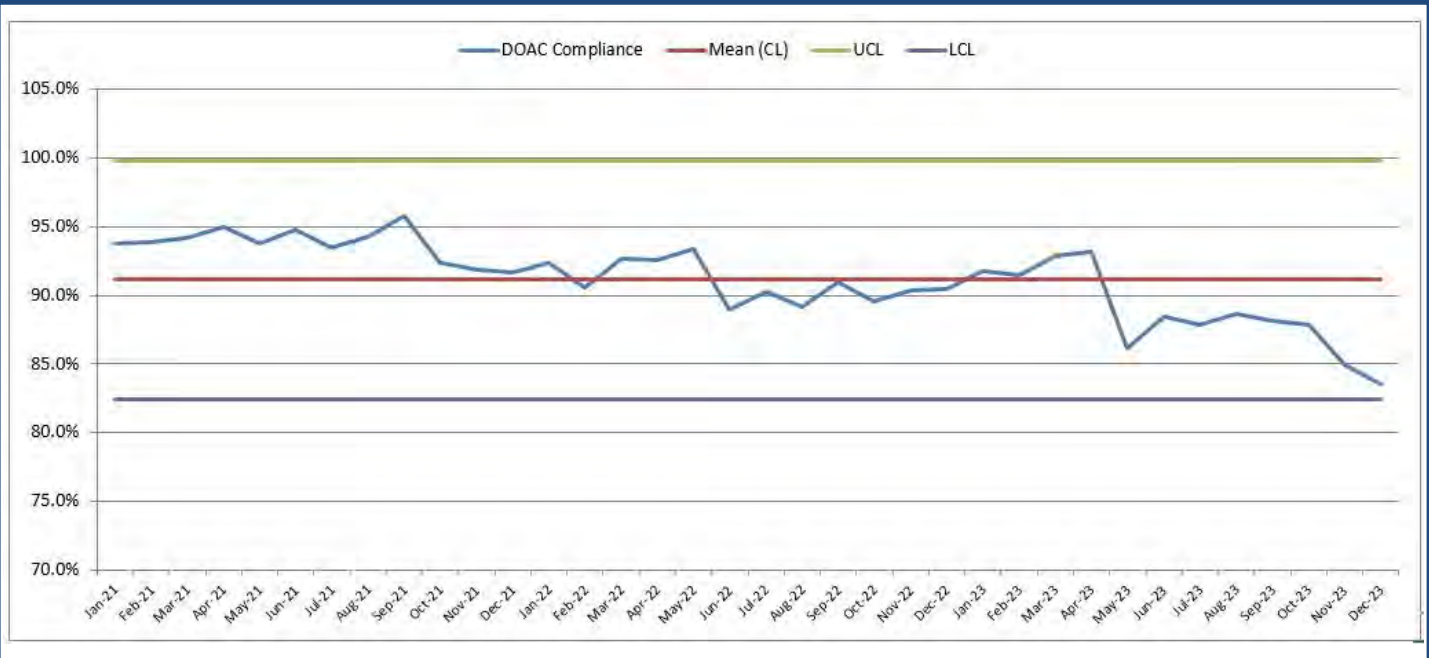
In 2023, RWJBarnabas Health underwent an EHR conversion in the majority of its facilities. This resulted in changes in the prescribing restrictions on direct oral anticoagulants. This will continue to be monitored.

<sup>1</sup>Chen A, Stecker E, and Warden BA. Direct oral anticoagulant use: a practical guide to common clinical challenges. *Journal of the American Heart Association* 2020;9:e017559.

<sup>2</sup>Sikorska J and Uprichard J. Direct oral anticoagulants: a quick guide. *Eur Cardiol* 2017;12(1):40-45.

<sup>3</sup>Ahlert D, Wynn E, and Thomas H. Appropriate DOAC dosing: an evaluation for real world cardiology. *Heart* 2018;104(S6):A28-29.

<sup>4</sup>The Joint Commission. National patient safety goal for anticoagulant therapy. *R3 Report* 2018;19:1-4.



# Quality and Safety

## Regulatory

**The RWJBarnabas Health Pharmacy Enterprise must comply with the regulations of the FDA, CDC, CMS, The Joint Commission (TJC), DNV Health Care, the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, the EPA, ASHP and the Department of Health**

**This past year, our Pharmacy Enterprise successfully completed the following internal and external regulatory audits:**

340B Internal Review  
American Council for Graduate Medical Education  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Controlled Substance Internal Compliance Reviews  
Dialysis Audit Program  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Leap Frog Medication Reconciliation  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
CMS  
Multiple TJC Accreditation Visits  
New Jersey Department of Health  
New Jersey Board of Pharmacy  
DNV Healthcare  
American Society of Health System Pharmacists PGY1 and PGY2 Accreditation  
Health Resources & Services Administration 340B  
URAC Measure Data Validation  
National Cancer Institute Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program

# Quality and Safety

## Technology

Over 6,500 safety enhancements were submitted and completed in our Enterprise Clinical Information Systems.

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### Pyxis ES 1.6 Equipment Swap

In 2023, 8 Acute Care Service Line Facilities replaced a total of 690 pieces of Pyxis ES 1.6 equipment including Med and Anesthesia stations with new Win10 devices. All devices were built on the Consolidated ES server (CONS) which involved interdisciplinary collaboration with Corporate IT Security, Corporate IT Server/Network and the PMO teams.

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### Pyxis Active Directory

In 2023, over 90% of our Acute Care Service Line Facilities implemented Active Directory (AD), which allows Pyxis end users to have a single sign-on using their RWJBH network account to access the devices.

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### BD C2 Safe Upgrade

The C2 Safe provides the hospitals a secure system that monitors and tracks controlled substances and offers inventory management reports while streamlining regulatory documentation processes. In 2023, 6 Acute Care Service Line facilities upgraded their C2 safe from V7 to V9.

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### Epic Willow

In April 2023, 5 Acute Care Service Line facilities RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center, Community Medical Center, Jersey City Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus transitioned from their heritage EHR system Cerner Millennium to Epic Willow.

In October 2023, the three remaining Cerner sites Clara Maass Medical Center, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center went live on Epic. The new clinical information system was implemented to existing departments already on Cerner Millennium along with areas previously documenting on paper or a standalone EHR. An average of 80 Pharmacists across the system helped with the backload the day before go-live for Waves 4 and 5. A multidisciplinary team assisted with the build and validation efforts leading to a successful go-live for these facilities in Waves 4 and 5.

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### Epic Willow Ambulatory

We transitioned the retail pharmacy at Monmouth Medical Center and Jersey City Medical Center on 4/29/2023. The retail pharmacy at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Greenville went live on 10/28/2023.

All Barnabas Retail Pharmacies have completed the conversion from QS1 to Willow Ambulatory.

## Research and Publications

Research and publication is strongly encouraged at RWJBarnabas Health. Our pharmacists have been doing an increasing amount of research for more than a decade. Pharmacists contribute a unique expertise to the medication-related aspects of patient care, taking personal and professional responsibility for the outcomes from the pharmaceutical care they provide to patients. Improvements in medication therapy (from safety, efficacy, and cost perspective) depend on new knowledge generated by scientific research. Health-system pharmacists have a professional obligation to participate actively in and increase pharmacy related and drug-related research efforts.

In 2023, **The Pharmacy Enterprise** completed **24** peer reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, guidelines and articles.

In 2023, **The Pharmacy Enterprise** completed **8** non-peer reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, guidelines and articles.

A total of **8** abstracts were created and presented at local, national and international meetings

### Members of our team serve as reviewers for the following publications

- ACCP Grant Reviewer
- American Journal of Managed Care
- American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education
- Annals of Pharmacotherapy
- ClinicoEconomics and Outcomes Research
- Current in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning
- Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery
- Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy
- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
- Journal of Pharmacy Practice
- Mental Health Clinician
- NIH Grant Reviewer
- North American Center for Continuing Medical Education
- Pharmacist's Letter
- Pharmacy Times
- Prescriber's Letter
- P&T Journal

### Manuscripts, book chapters and articles were published in the following periodicals

- AIDS Care
- American Heart Journal Plus: Cardiology Research and Practice
- American Pharmacists Association
- Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy
- Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology (ASHE) Journal
- Artificial organs
- Clinical Infectious Diseases
- Curēus
- Infectious Disease Clinics of North America
- Innovations in Pharmacy
- Journal of Continuing Medical Education
- Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry
- Journal of the American Pharmacists Association
- Neurological Disorders in Pregnancy
- New Jersey Journal of Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmacotherapy
- Pharmacy Times
- Pharmacy Times Continuing Education
- ProCE
- Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment
- The Annals of Pharmacotherapy
- The Neurohospitalist
- The Senior Care Pharmacist







