

## I am a Pharmacy Professional and I... am a Vaccinator

**Gretchen Kunze, PharmD, BCPS**

*Pharmacy Manager*

Gundersen Pharmacy- Cass St., La Crosse

Patients that have undergone hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation require re-vaccination against pathogens they previously had immunity to. Many of these vaccines are covered under prescription drug benefits, therefore, it is more cost effective for the patients to receive them in the pharmacy setting rather than the clinic. This has led to a partnership with the hematology and oncology department at Gundersen Health System. We have worked together and developed a process to coordinate the prescribing, billing, ordering, and administration of these vaccines. The protocols being used fall outside of typical ACIP guidelines, therefore, we still require providers to drive the prescribing of these vaccines. However, as we become more familiar with the protocols and vaccines themselves, pharmacy staff is being more proactive in our efforts to initiate vaccine needs and resolve errors or gaps in vaccine therapy. This collaboration has been a great learning experience and is an example of how pharmacies can support the needs of other departments within the health system.

**May/June 2021**

**Theme: I am a  
Pharmacy Professional  
and I... Learned a New  
Skill**

Email your response to  
mgrant@pswi.org by April 1.

Responses should be <100 words  
and include a photo.

**Riley Poe, PharmD**

*ICU Pharmacist*

Aurora Health Care, Milwaukee

Being an ICU pharmacist, I have seen firsthand the difficult challenges COVID19 poses on patients, healthcare workers and the entire healthcare system. We have faced busy ICUs, unprecedented clinical scenarios with new medications and indications as well as feelings of helplessness and burnout. The COVID19 vaccine has provided us hope, not only to our fellow healthcare workers but to the patients we serve and the communities we live in. The opportunity to vaccinate colleagues, frontline workers and members of the community has been a rewarding experience. I will never forget the unending amount of joy and excitement from people who are getting their vaccine. Their smiles and positivity radiate and give hope to all of us in ending the COVID19 pandemic. I'm proud to be a healthcare worker during this time and work alongside such a resilient group of individuals.

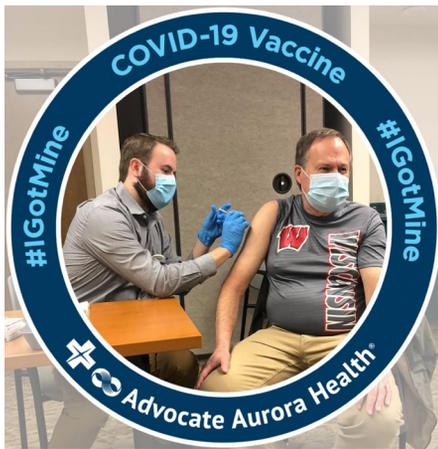


**Cassie Levetzow, PharmD, BCACP**

*Clinical Pharmacist, Outpatient Pharmacy & Pulmonary Clinic*

St. Luke's Medical Center, Milwaukee

I have been helping with the COVID vaccine clinic at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center since the first week we offered them. It has been an amazing experience to say the least. I have had many healthcare workers that have cried tears of joy or be silent and reflect on all the patients they have cared for during this pandemic. We typically vaccinate around 600 people a day and have recently hit 10,000 vaccines administered at our site. I'm excited for our first patients from the community to get their vaccine!



**William Clark, RPh**  
*Pharmacy Manager*  
 Aurora Health Care, Lake Geneva

Just wanted to share my story. This is actually a story of two immunizers. I have been immunizing for more than 15 years working for Aurora Pharmacy. It is a part of my practice that I truly enjoy. Although we do influenza vaccines, I have concentrated mainly on the non-influenza vaccines mainly Shingrix, pneumonia, Tdap, Td providing a convenient way for our patients to receive these needed vaccines.

The other half of the story is my son, Tim Clark, a third year pharmacy student at UW-Madison and intern at Advocate-Aurora Lakeland Medical Center. He has spent his winter break giving COVID-19 vaccinations to healthcare professionals. The attached picture shows him giving me my first dose of vaccine.

**Katherine Hartkopf, PharmD, BCACP**  
*Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care Services*  
 UW Health, Madison

**Samantha Lewiston**  
*2021 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate*  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, Madison

**Emily Jaeger**  
*2021 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate*  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, Madison



This past fall, we collaborated to serve community members and UW Health employees while maintaining social distancing guidance through an innovative, pharmacy-led drive-thru influenza vaccine clinic. During respective APPE leadership rotations with Kate, Emily collaborated on the proposal and initial implementation and Samantha managed the ongoing service and daily operations. Community members and employees could schedule appointments or drop-in any time during operating hours. Patients age 6 and older were eligible for vaccination at this site, making it especially convenient for many families. Upon arrival, they were directed to remain in their vehicles and follow signage through the parking lot to a tent for screening and vaccination. The clinic was primarily supported by APPE and IPPE students certified in immunization delivery with pharmacist oversight. This clinic operated for 7 weeks during which 4,673 influenza vaccines were administered. We could not have provided this innovative and necessary service without the support and dedication of many excellent students, pharmacists, and the UW Health pharmacy department!

**Mandy Kvam, PharmD**  
*Pharmacist*  
 HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Chippewa Falls

The pharmacy departments of the Health Sister's Hospital System of Western Wisconsin is honored to take part in COVID-19 vaccination efforts in our area. Months of planning with a multi-disciplinary team helped us hit the ground running and have vaccines in arms just hours after our first shipment arrived. Our pharmacists worked side by side with nurses, hospital leadership, and providers to take an active role in our vaccination clinics, including administering vaccine. We have a long way to go, but we are thankful for the stressful weeks of planning, the happy tears as we witnessed the first vaccinations, and the hope for a healthier future. Today and every day we are proud to be pharmacists. -Sacred Heart Eau Claire and St. Joseph's Chippewa Falls Pharmacy Departments.

