

Michigan Pharmacy Professionals Celebrate Michigan Pharmacy Week

Each year, Michigan sets aside one week to focus on and celebrate the services that are provided by pharmacy professionals. During 2006, Michigan Pharmacy Week was celebrated during the week of October 22-28. Pharmacy professionals throughout the state participated in various different ways, bringing increased attention and awareness to the pharmacy profession.

Nancy MacDonald submitted the activities of **Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit Campus**, during Michigan Pharmacy Week. The participants, who included **Klodiana Neme, John Stine, Carol Manierski, Ed Szandzik, Kim Corpus, Nadia Haque, Suzette Gendjar, Gladys Dabaja, Jessica Shillig, Renee Alexander, Julie Kohout, Beth Garrod, Stephanie Sharma, Carrie Cabadas, Ken Wlasuk, Mark Mlynarek, Darko Veselinovic** and **Osama Muzher**, offered many activities for the education of patients and staff. Outpatient pharmacy staff placed stickers on prescription bags advertising Michigan Pharmacy Week and urged patients to receive a flu vaccine. Get well cards that contained information on safe medication practices were also distributed to the inpatients from the pharmacy staff. Additionally, a medication review was held for patients and hospital staff. A table was set up in the cafeteria containing information about medications and common disease states. Table tents containing inpatient pharmacy facts and safe medication practices were displayed. Lunches and a breakfast were provided for the pharmacy staff, and pharmacy staff also received pharmacy week tote bags.

Marcia Buckley, CPhT, and **Brad Freeman, CPhT**, of **VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain** provided an instructional class on stomas and home healthcare products. Pharmacists and technicians were able to participate in a hands-on demonstration of products and view their applications. Typical quantities needed for sup-



plies were given with plans to standardize these in the drug file in the future.

Heather Christensen of **Meijer Pharmacy in Greenville** reported the activities of her store. Monday of Pharmacy Week was named "Diabetes Day." Activities included a free glucose meter upgrade for 11 patients, along with a demonstration of the new features of the system. There was also a program entitled "Are You at Risk?" in which patients consulted with Christensen to assess their specific risks for developing diabetes. On Wednesday of that week, Christensen performed a consultation called "Nutrition and Exercise for a Healthier You." During the program, patients' ideal body weight, actual body weight and body mass index were assessed. Participants were also given suggested changes to caloric intake and activity level to help them live healthier lives. Friday's activity was for children, with kids drawing pictures of what a pharmacist means to them. Additionally, the children were taken on a treasure hunt and given coloring books and goodie bags. The programs were all advertised the previous week in a local paper.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Michigan Pharmacy Week 2006! Your participation helped celebrate and promote pharmacy and without it, pharmacy week would not have been a success. Through your activities, greater awareness of pharmacy was achieved and patient-pharmacist relationships were improved. If you were not able to participate in pharmacy week this year, there is always next year! You can use these ideas to help promote your pharmacy in 2007 and then have the chance to have you and your pharmacy featured! If you have any suggestions or would like information on how to get involved, please contact Andrea Rybicki at (517) 377-0232 or andrea@michiganpharmacists.org.