



ABSOLUTE SCOOP

DID YOU KNOW?

Absolute has been working on a sentinel medications initiative. We are adding meds that address emergency situations to all contingency stock.

These meds can help avoid a sentinel event that could result in an emergency room visit or hospitalization.

SENTINEL MEDICATIONS

Written by Susan Riggle, R.Ph., BCGP, Consultant Pharmacist, Clinical Manager

At Absolute Pharmacy, we understand the importance of ensuring all residents have medications when needed. This is especially important when your facility is faced with a situation where an individual is in need of therapy urgently to avoid a sentinel event that could result in an emergency room visit or hospitalization. In these cases, it is imperative to make sure that your contingency stock contains medications to support timely patient care. To ensure medications to address emergency situations are available for facility use immediately, Absolute's Consultant Pharmacists and Account Managers have been working on a Sentinel Medications Initiative.

The goals of this initiative:

- Make sure facilities have access to potentially life-saving medications in their contingency supply.
- Highlight these specific medications and educate facilities on what is in their contingency stock.
- It is costly to transfer residents to the hospital for medications that were readily available/retrievable.
- Improve upon contingency supply lists to meet facility and residents' needs.
 - This is a collaborative effort but should at a minimum include the foundation of Sentinel Medications.

Sentinel Medication Lists for Skilled & for Assisted Living:

For a skilled facility, the foundational list includes: Albuterol nebulizing solution, Atropine solution, Diphenhydramine injection, Epi-Pen, Glucagon, Insulin (facility specific), Naloxone injection with syringe and/or Narcan nasal, Nitroglycerin sublingual, Vitamin K injection and tab, and Sodium Polystyrene Suspension (SPS).

For an assisted living facility with a terminal distributor license, the foundational list includes- Albuterol HFA inhaler, Atropine solution, Diphenhydramine injection, Epi-Pen, Glucagon, Insulin (per facility request), Naloxone injection with syringe and/or Narcan nasal, Nitroglycerin sublingual, Vitamin K injection and tab, and Sodium Polystyrene Suspension (SPS).





As we have implemented our **Sentinel Medications Initiative**, we've learned a lot along the way. Due to staffing challenges including increased turnover and use of agency at various facilities, we've found that some staff lacked knowledge of a contingency box or didn't know its content list or location. Our teams worked together to find solutions to help with these instances:

- Account Managers are posting bright pink lists of the Sentinel Medications to improve visibility of contingency contents as well where in the box the medications may be retrieved. They are also updating lists in accordance with the addition of these foundational Sentinel Medications.
- Consultant Pharmacists would like to keep the conversation going during monthly visits, QAPs, etc. to ensure that, when appropriate, residents can be treated in their home, at the facility.
- In addition, facility staff can work with Absolute to create a contingency supply list that benefits the prescribing habits specific to their facility with Sentinel Medications as the foundation for building a contingency stock that is focused on timely, patient-centered care.

Sentinel Meds Included (SNF)

- Albuterol Neb 0.083%
- Atropine Sul Sol 1% OP
- Diphenhydramine 50mg/ml
- Epinephrine 0.3mg Pen
- Glucagon Emergency Kit 1mg
- Insulins (Facility Specific)
- Naloxone 0.4mg / ml Vial w/ Syringe (Narcan)
- Nitroglycerin SL 0.4mg
- Phytonadione (Vit K) 10mg/ml
- Phytonadione (Vit K) 5mg Tab (Mephyton)
- SPS Sus 15gm/60 60ml (Kayexalate)

If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please reach out to your Consultant Pharmacist or Account Manager.

About the Author

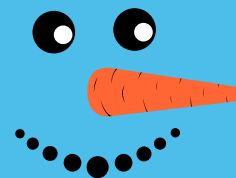


Outside of work, Susan can be found playing cardiotennis or thrifting.

Susan has been with Absolute Pharmacy for 9 years. Her positive energy and clinical expertise are evident in every interaction that she has. When asked about her definition of success, Susan replied, "Getting to do a job you love surrounded by people who have the same work ethic and commitment to integrity and quality outcomes."

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a shark?

Frost-Bite.



What did one Christmas tree say to the other?

Lighten Up.