Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Understanding Medication Options to Tailor and Transition Care

Educational Overview

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare disease with significant consequences, including serious functional impairment and premature death. If left untreated, PAH is rapidly fatal. Fortunately, over the past decade, the knowledge and understanding of this disease has greatly expanded. Furthermore, the availability of effective and more convenient oral and inhaled medications has allowed clinicians to better individualize therapy to meet patient treatment goals. Though there is no cure for PAH, effective treatment can significantly slow disease progression and clinical worsening. Given the serious nature of this disease and its rapid progression, optimal treatment selection is essential.

The Role of the Pharmacist

Optimal management of patients with PAH requires early detection and diagnosis followed by an aggressive treatment plan. By increasing their competency, pharmacists can play an important role within the interprofessional team when encountering patients with this deadly and rapidly progressing disease.

Given the complex and individualized nature of PAH therapy, pharmacists must have a full understanding of treatment algorithms, disease-specific therapies, and long-term monitoring recommendations based on evidence-based guidelines. As the armamentarium to treat PAH continues to expand, pharmacists must make efforts to stay informed of the latest findings in order to contribute to the optimal management of these patients.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing this activity, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate among the current PAH medications based on pharmacology, dosing, safety, and efficacy
- Explain evidence-based approaches aimed at individualizing therapy for PAH patients based on patient factors and disease state
- Identify strategies to improve collaboration and communication among interprofessional team members to help transition PAH patients between home/ community and acute care settings

Target Audience

This continuing pharmacy education activity is planned to meet the needs of pharmacists in a variety of practice settings, including large and small healthcare systems, outpatient clinics, managed care organizations, long-term care facilities, and academia. This program will target pharmacists who are responsible for the safe and effective use of medications utilized for the treatment of patients with PAH.

Accreditation Pharmacists

Center for Independent Healthcare Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider for continuing pharmacy education. Center has assigned 1.0 contact hour (0.1 CEU) of continuing pharmacy education credits for participating in this activity. ACPE UAN: 0473-9999-21-002-L01-P Activity type: Knowledge-based Please Join Us for a Live CPE Webinar! Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:00 – 1:00 PM MT

Program Agenda

Introduction: Advancements and Continuing Needs in PAH

Presentation Topics: Current Approaches in PAH Management

- 1. Pathophysiology of PAH
- 2. Current treatment algorithm
- 3. Review of drug classes and mechanisms of action
- 4. Individualizing treatment and defining treat-to-target goals
- 5. Clinical evidence supporting monotherapy vs. combination therapy
- 6. Role of the pharmacist within the interprofessional team

Open Forum: Q&A

Faculty



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