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there are markings on one side of the product.

We have activated barcode scanning for this new pouch system, but some pouches may not scan into our digital Drug Record Book (DRB) this cycle. If you scan your pouches, please “click” on the DRB entry to receive them. Next week’s pouches will all be scannable.

We are excited about our new systems. They will provide significant benefit to you and your residents.

Contour Redesign

Ascensia, the company that makes Contour glucometers, has made a design change. *Contour next EZ* glucometers are being phased out and replaced by the new *Contour next GEN* model. The changes were made to benefit community users but also present advantages to our homes.

The *next GEN* machines have a larger screen for easier reading. They also have a rubberized button that is easier to grip. The biggest advantage is an extension in testing time when the blood droplet applied is too small. *GEN* allows for additional blood to be applied for a full 60 seconds before timing out, compared to just 30 seconds with *next EZ*.

GeriatRx Goes PACMED

By now you have noticed that some of your pouches have a different look. The white/clear finish you’ve been accustomed to has given way to pouches that are entirely clear. Some of you will be familiar with this pouch format. It is part of the PACMED product line. GeriatRx has installed two ultra-high capacity PACMED machines to increase the speed and efficiency of our automated dispensing. We are also using PACVISION verification equipment to perform the initial photo-check of our pouch output. We continue to follow the photo verification with a full manual check of your pouches to ensure resident medication is always correct.

The clear pouches have three key benefits compared to our previous white/clear pouches. They are more resilient and less likely to break in the crushing process; they hold more medications per pouch (5 vs. 4) so weekly strips are often shorter and fit into storage bins more easily; they allow both sides of tablets and capsules to be viewed for easier identification, especially when

Please remember that your *Contour next Normal* solution for glucometer calibration is only good for 6 months once opened. The label has an area to indicate the discard date. Please add the date immediately after the bottle is opened. GeriatRx has an ample supply of free calibration solution, should you need a replacement.

SGLT2s are at it Again

You gotta love those SGLT2 inhibitors (Jardiance®, Forxiga® and Invokana®). They prevent heart failure and worsening of kidney disease. They also do a fine job of treating their intended target, diabetes.

The SGLT2’s latest foray is in the field of atrial fibrillation prevention. *DECLARE-TIMI* (17,000 participants; 2013 – 2018) showed Forxiga® 10mg vs. placebo reduced AFib development by 19% in diabetics treated via standard-of-care. Further significant evidence was presented at recent sessions of the American Diabetes Assn. Large groups of U.S. veterans were compared. SGLT2s reduced AFib by 18%, compared to a group of DPP4 inhibitor (e.g., Trajenta®, Januvia®) users. SGLT2s were 10% better than GLP-1 drugs (Ozempic®, Victoza®) at preventing AFib. SGLT2 drugs reduced trips to hospital for AFib as well. SGLT2 inhibitors are fittingly enjoying greater use in diabetes treatment and beyond.

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