



# InPharmation

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## Staff Spotlight

**Starr Smith, CPhT**



"If you're going to walk in success, you have to choose what to remember and what to forget. What Jesus has done for you is bigger than what anyone has done to you."

Starr is one of our hard-working pharmacy buyers. Her favorite aspect about being a pharmacy technician is the ability to help people. From her family to patients, Starr aspires to show love. If there was one thing in this world she could change, it would be hate. She believes hate is a wasted emotion that people spend too much time expressing.

When she isn't at work, you can find her chauffeuring her 3 daughters between dance competitions and beauty pageants. She also has 3 stepsons and a grandbaby that she enjoys spending time with as well. She enjoys live music, road trips for antiques, craft shows, beach getaways, and festivals.

Fun facts about Starr: If she could have any job in the world, she would be a professional event planner. And if she ever gets the chance, she wants to take a vacation to Hawaii!

## Regulatory

### Recent FDA Approvals

- **Ribociclib (Kisqali®)** was approved by the FDA on March 13 for the treatment of HR-positive, HER2 negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women. It is a cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor dosed once daily for 21 consecutive days followed by 7 days off treatment.
- **Safinamide (Xadago®)** was approved by the FDA on March 21 as add-on treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease who are experiencing episodes of increased symptoms while on levodopa/carbidopa. It is a monoamine oxidase inhibitor and thus should not be combined with other monoamine oxidase inhibitors such as linezolid, or tricyclic antidepressants.
- **Naldemedine (Symproic®)**, a Schedule II controlled substance, was approved by the FDA on March 23 to treat opioid induced constipation in adults with chronic non-cancer pain. It acts as an opioid antagonist in gastrointestinal tissues to decrease the constipating effects of opioid.
- **Niraparib (Zejula)** was approved by the FDA on March 27 for the maintenance treatment of adult patients with recurrent epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer who are in complete or partial response to platinum-based chemotherapy.

### Medication Safety Alerts

Patients without a gallbladder are at increased risk of developing serious pancreatitis if taking eluxadoline (Viberzi) for irritable bowel syndrome. The FDA currently recommends that this drug not be prescribed to patients without a gallbladder

## Patient Safety Corner

### ISMP Safety Practice Guideline 7: Competency Assessment

7.1 Competency assessments for IV push medication preparation and administration should be standardized across disciplines within healthcare organizations and validated through an initial assessment and on an ongoing basis.

- Nurses and other practitioners are typically taught the basics of IV administration, however IV push medication procedures are typically done during "on the job" training.
- Regardless of profession, competency assessments should occur for those who perform IV push medication administration.

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