



BAPHON Bulletin

Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of APHON

Hello BAPHON Members!

I hope everyone had some fun times this holiday season! BAPHON is proud to announce we are now providing CE's at each BAPHON sponsored event in 2015. Our members asked for this, and we listened! The format of our events has changed, to allow for CE distribution. Please continue to keep us all informed as to what YOU need. This is a member-driven organization and we will listen to your suggestions.

This year, please join BAPHON at our four Tuesday meetings. The remaining meetings will be April 7th, August 4th and November 10th. We will continue to rotate between the Peninsula and San Francisco, with the majority of our meetings being in San Francisco. The next meeting is at Spalti, Palo Alto on Tuesday 3 February at 6pm. The topic will be: "Successful Management of home tube feedings, presented by a Registered Dietician from CVS Specialty Care pharmacy. **Pre-registration is required.** Continuing Education credits will be available.

BAPHON's partnerships:

The BAPHON board extends a special thank-you to our incredible sponsors of CVS Caremark Specialty Care Home Pharmacy and Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals Inc. It is because of our sponsors BAPHON is able to provide CEs at our meetings.

We want to acknowledge, some phenomenal BAPHON nurses from Kaiser Oakland campus: Chrissy Walters, Kathy Tate, and Jean Quigley are spearheading our financial out-reach team for 2015. If you are interested in fundraising, through letters or outreach please contact them through any board member.

One of BAPHON's 2015 goals, is to establish formal partnerships with our local hospitals. Please let us know how we can support your local facility. There is a mutual benefit by growing awareness for our corporate and individual members. Many of you contribute towards their work both financially and in time so we need them to support the professional growth of their valued employees.

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ASSOCIATION of PEDIATRIC
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY NURSES

**San Francisco/
Bay Area Chapter—
BAPHON**

Information Technology

Over the last year, the BAPHON website underwent a massive transformation to include greater functionality, aesthetics, and ease-of-use. The amount of user views has grown exponentially, but the website still has room for growth. If you have content to add, ideas, or feedback, please email me at vancecoleman76@yahoo.com.

BAPHON membership numbers for 2014 increased by 25% from the previous year. We are currently at 55 members, and are excited for our continued growth into the new year!

Education Corner

The BAPHON website is introducing a "Dear Nurse" Column. We recommend and encourage you to visit our website and submit your letter. It can be from our members, a fellow nurse, or even a parent/family member that you may know. Our first Dear Nurse letter was submitted from a health care worker who had questions about the efficacy and handling of liquid Purixan. Please visit www.baphon.org for details for "Dear Nurse's" response.

Community Outreach

BAPHON is working with Blood Centers of the Pacific to organize our second Spring Blood Drive at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital at its new location at Mission Bay. After hanging that millionth bag of blood and that umpteenth bag of platelets-- what better way to give back to our patients! Stay tuned for upcoming details. Let's fill the Blood Bank back up! Please contact Katie Maniatis (ktmaniatis@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in helping throw this event (easy half day of volunteering at the check in table). Any help is greatly appreciated; and we will need you to spread the word to fill our sign-ups. Thank you!

BAPHON Perks: *Do you know what's great about BAPHON & APHON membership?*

BAPHON is developing a partnership with San Francisco Bay Area Oncology Nurses Association (SFBAONS.) Their annual conference will be in October this year. BAPHON has been invited to provide some speakers especially in the area of adolescent and young adult. The SFBAONS has regional meetings in Los Gatos, San Jose and in the City so feel free to join those meetings too. If you would like to go they are willing to consider APHON membership the same as ONS membership.

As a BAPHON member, you are also supporting the local pediatric hematology/oncology community. Both the local and national organizations are dedicated to seeking the latest evidence based practice forums. Professional dinners are a great way to keep current on changes and goals within our profession.

BAPHON incentives:

BAPHON is looking for speakers. We will offer certificates of professional recognition. Who is better to advise us of topics & speakers than you!! The board is offering a full year's membership to anyone who shares a presentation at one of our meetings. We will also offer a free dinner to a member who nominates a speaker that presents a topic at one of our meetings. We will also have prizes for those members who bring another professional healthcare member to our April meeting. Remember, CE's are offered so bring your social workers, pharmacists, and child life specialists! Please check our website in March and we will provide a way for your to sign-up with a coworker in April.

Dear BAPHON Nurse,

I'm a health care worker who has a few questions about Purixan Oral suspension.

- 1) When switching from tablets to liquid what is the best way to measure thiopurine metabolite (6-tgn) levels?
- 2) We received a low level that corresponded with a higher than normal absolute neutrophil count in our patient. This same patient also had a nasogastric (NG) tube that mom used for medication administration. Does the NG tube affect the absorption of the medicine?
- 3) Finally, after shaking as directed, bubbles are observed when drawing up in the oral syringe. Is this a normal occurrence?

- Nurse in the Bay

Dear Nurse in the Bay,

These are great questions. BAPHON was able to get in touch with Hussain Mulla from Nova Laboratories who supply Rare Therapeutics with the medication. The answers below are from the two companies. The information is current as of December 2014.

- 1) Purixan oral suspension is bioequivalent to Purinethol tablets with respect to area under the curve (AUC) and therefore the metabolite response to dosing will not be different between the two formulations. Centers should follow their normal protocol for monitoring mercaptopurine therapy.
- 2) We have not conducted any compatibility studies with nasogastric tubes. However, we would not anticipate any drug loss due to absorption or sequestration by the tube as long as the dose is flushed through with sufficient water immediately after dosing.
- 3) Bubbles can be introduced into the medicine during the shaking process. When opening a new bottle of Purixan, it is important to shake the bottle vigorously for a minimum of 30 seconds to make the sure the medicine is well mixed. However, on future doses, it is only necessary to shake the bottle for five seconds. Ensure that the push-in-bottle adaptor is firmly fitted to the bottle and that the syringe fits snugly into the push-in-bottle adaptor. If any bubbles are observed when drawing up the medicine, eject the medicine back into the bottle. This process may need to be repeated several times.

-BAPHON Nurse

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