

Good day,

The special individuals who receive LifeSaver Award recognition go beyond the expected to achieve the exceptional.

This week's story is a wonderful example of how important it can be to look past the obvious in order to find the solution to a patient's needs.

Thank you,



Ira Schatten, PharmD, recently used his impressive research skills to solve a problem a patient had been struggling with for months.

In his job as a pharmacist in the Emergency Department at Memorial Hospital West, he reviewed the medications of a patient who had been treated for seizures and discharged the next day. Looking closely, he realized the patient had made 25 visits to various Memorial Healthcare System facilities in 11 months. Each time he would be treated and released, but the seizures kept recurring.

Ira made the extra effort to further research the medications and identified an extremely rare drug reaction that can cause altered mental status and seizures. Convinced he'd found a solution to the man's problem, Ira contacted the patient's physician to share the information.

Just as Ira suspected, once the patient's medications were changed, the seizures stopped. And they haven't returned for nine months.

"Ira has a knack for seeing and speaking up when something doesn't seem right, and he takes the time to dig deeper and find out," says Irvin Alfonso, Director of Pharmacy, Memorial Hospital West, who nominated Ira for the LifeSaver recognition.

"His focus, his attention to detail and his follow-through are outstanding, and he doesn't drop anything. He'll even call in on his day off to follow up on a patient," Irvin says. "I wish I had 20 more of him."

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