

PHARMACEUTICAL PROTOCOLS

The Medical Advisory Board establishes this protocol with the intent to:

1. Reduce the numbers of GI bleeds and other complications caused by prescriptions;
2. Reduce the numbers of injured workers being addicted to pain medications;
3. Reduce the disposal of drugs that are ineffective or not tolerated by the worker.

The protocol is established as follows:

1. Generics should be used as the first choice;
2. If a generic equivalent exists, but the attending physician feels that the brand name is needed, the physician must seek preauthorization from the insurer before using that drug;
3. No over-the-counter medications will be paid for unless prescribed by the attending physician;
4. Workers not declared permanently injured may not receive more than a thirty (30) day prescription at any one time. No more than one (1) refill will be allowed without a new prescription form;
5. At the end of three months time, if additional medication is needed, the attending physician must make a clear statement to the insurer substantiating the need for additional medication being prescribed;
6. Any new prescription (a drug not previously shown effective and/or tolerated by an injured worker) must include a 10 day trial period on the initial prescription;
7. Permanently injured workers requiring ongoing medication should use mail away pharmacy designated by their workers' compensation insurance company for a ninety (90) day prescription, if this service is more cost effective.

PROTOCOL HISTORY

Passed: 3/21/1995
Amended: 1/9/2001