Risk Tip: Prescription refills

In order for a prescription refill to be authorized, the patient should be compliant with prescribed therapy and up-to-date with their medical office visits. Defining how and under what circumstances a patient may receive a prescription refill given by a provider can make the process of providing prescription refills easier for your practice.

Upon request from a patient or pharmacist consider the following steps:

- Patient's chart is reviewed to confirm compliance with provider's recommended treatment plan.
- If appropriate, the last therapeutic blood level or laboratory screening is checked for range
- If the patient is past due for an office visit or laboratory test, consider offering a refill for a limited time period only. An appointment or lab work should be completed prior to subsequent refills.
- If the patient is in compliance with office visits and laboratory work, a refill may be authorized by the physician for a period not to exceed the amount of time before a recheck would be necessary.
- Narcotics refills should be reviewed by the physician under all circumstances.
- All refills will be documented in the patient's chart and on the patient's medication list.
- The on-call physicians will not refill narcotics under any circumstances.