

EARLY REFILLS FOR PRESCRIPTION EYE DROPS



THE LAW IN OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology

Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Patients with chronic eye conditions are now able to get early refills of eye drop prescriptions under their insurance plans as a result of a new law in Oklahoma.

What does the law do?

Patients covered by any health benefit plan issued or renewed on or after November 1, 2017 may have their prescription eye drops refilled when at least 70% of the dosage has been used or 21 of the 30 days has passed. This provision applies to all health insurance plans in Oklahoma that provide coverage for prescription medication. This is similar to the Medicare program recommendations to its Part D local carriers. A few more details:

- The 21 days is counted from the original date the prescription was distributed or the date the most recent refill was distributed.
- The prescribing practitioner must indicate on the original prescription that additional quantities are needed.
- The refill requested should not exceed the number of additional quantities needed.

Why was this law passed?

Many patients taking eye drops have difficulty administering the medicine. Some patients waste drops either by putting too much into the eye or by missing the eye completely. Administering eye drops to children can be especially difficult! As a result, these patients may run out before the anticipated refill date. Depending on their insurance coverage, patients could be faced with a choice of going without their eye drops, thus endangering their vision, or paying the full retail price for an early refill.

Does this apply to all ophthalmic prescriptions?

No. Only prescription eye drops are covered by this law.

What should I do if my pharmacist or insurance company won't refill my eye drop prescription?

Tell the pharmacist that the law changed on November 1, 2017, and refer him/her to a new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6060.9d of Title 36. If the claim is denied by your insurance company, contact the claims appeal office and refer them to this law. Alternatively, you can seek assistance from those you trust who are familiar with health insurance claims. Keep in mind that an early refill is allowed only after 70% of the dosage period. For example, if your prescription is for 30 days, then you can get a refill after 21 days.

QUESTIONS?

Oklahoma Insurance Department: (800) 522-0071 or www.ok.gov/oid
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