



COLGACARE

Direct Primary Care
& Acute Care

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Controlled Substance Prescribing Policy

Purpose: This Controlled Substance Prescribing Policy is established to ensure the safe and responsible prescribing of controlled substances at ColGACare, LLC. The policy aims to comply with applicable laws and regulations, safeguard patient well-being, prevent substance abuse, and minimize the risk of diversion.

Scope: This policy applies to most drugs currently regulated as Schedules II, III, and IV by the state of Georgia, including but not limited to: opioid narcotics (e.g., hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine), benzodiazepines (e.g., alprazolam, clonazepam, lorazepam), and certain stimulants (e.g., amphetamine/dextroamphetamine, methylphenidate, lisdexamfetamine). Certain Schedule III steroids are excluded.

Policy Guidelines:

- a. ColGACare **does not prescribe** opioids or benzodiazepines for chronic or chronic intermittent use.
- b. When indicated, controlled substances will be prescribed at the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary.
- c. Before controlled substances are prescribed, alternative treatments, non-pharmacological interventions, and specialist consultation will be appropriately considered. **Patient preference for controlled substances in lieu of alternative treatments does not warrant or mandate their prescribing.**
- d. Patients requiring prescriptions for controlled substances may be required to sign a treatment agreement outlining expectations, responsibilities, and conditions for controlled substance use at any time. The treatment agreement may include provisions related to adherence to treatment plans, random drug testing, and monitoring compliance.
- e. ColGACare complies with the state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). We have access to a database of information that includes when/where patients fill prescriptions for controlled substances, and we may review this information



at any time and use it to inform future prescribing decisions.

f. Prescriptions for controlled substances are printed on tamper-resistant prescription pads or submitted electronically as per applicable regulations.

g. It is the Patient's responsibility to maintain positive control of any issued prescriptions for controlled substances. Lost/stolen prescriptions may be replaced no more than once every 2 years, at the prescriber's discretion. Patients who lose a prescription for a controlled substance may be asked to sign a copy of this policy upon replacement.

h. ColGACare prescribers are responsible for determining medical appropriateness of a prescription. We have no control over pharmacy inventory or shortages. Once a patient is provided with an appropriate prescription, **it is the Patient's responsibility to source the medication**. In times of shortage, this may require calling/driving around to multiple pharmacies.

i. Requests for early refills of controlled substances may be indicative of misuse and will be thoroughly evaluated. Patients who request early refills for a controlled substance may be asked to sign a copy of this policy. **Repeated requests for early refills of controlled substances may be grounds for termination of a patient's Membership Agreement.**

j. Any suspected cases of diversion, misuse, or non-compliance may be reported to appropriate authorities in accordance with applicable laws.

k. This Controlled Substance Prescribing Policy will be periodically reviewed and updated as needed to ensure compliance with changing laws and best practices.

By adhering to this Controlled Substance Prescribing Policy, ColGACare, LLC aims to promote the highest standard of patient care while minimizing the risk of controlled substance misuse and diversion.