

# ATTENTION:

## TENNESSEE NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTION LAW

- The United States and Tennessee specifically, are in the middle of a narcotic epidemic crisis. Over 1,600 Tennesseans died in 2016 from unintentional overdoses of narcotics. East Tennessee is the most affected area of our state.
- Unintentional overdose on narcotics is the leading cause of death in young and middle-aged adults.
- Most (80%+) of the victims of this tragedy started using narcotics legitimately prescribed by their healthcare provider for pain.
- Medical studies have shown that Ibuprofen, Naprosyn, or Acetaminophen (examples of these are Motrin, Advil, Tylenol, Aleve, etc.) are as effective as narcotics in controlling pain due to orthopedic conditions.
- **Starting July 1st, 2018, a Tennessee Law limits your physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to writing narcotic prescriptions for fewer tablets and almost no refills.**
- Many health insurance plans refuse to pay for more than a 5-to-7-day prescription. Additionally, pharmacies are limiting the number of tablets per prescription even if your healthcare provider prescribes more tablets.
- If you have concerns about government intervention that limits your healthcare provider's ability to prescribe appropriate narcotics, please contact the Tennessee Department of Health via [www.tntogether.com](http://www.tntogether.com)

# MEDICATION REFILL POLICY

Dear Patients,

Due to changes in federal and state guidelines, TOA has implemented the following policy effective March 7, 2023. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our offices.

## General:

1. Plan ahead- It may take 1-2 business days to refill your prescription. We must review your medical records, check for expiration dates, verify the number of refills, and ensure refill eligibility. Once the necessary information has been researched, it is presented to the doctor for final authorization. Certain medications require laboratory testing before they can be refilled.
2. Refills on medication can only be authorized on medications prescribed by physicians in our office. We will not refill medications prescribed by other physicians.
3. If a patient has not been evaluated in three (3) or more months, a follow up visit may be needed to verify medication needs. Any new conditions will require an appointment for evaluation before medication is prescribed.
4. Medications will not be phoned in after hours or on the weekends.

## Opioid/Narcotic Medications:

1. We utilize strict controls for medications containing narcotic/opioids. Patient's taking these medications cannot have the medication refilled until the current prescription is fully expired. We do need 1-2 business days to process these requests. Please plan ahead. Prescriptions will not be written for more than thirty (30) days.
2. If a refill is requested and granted, the medication must be electronically sent to the pharmacy by the ordering physician per Tennessee state law. Patients should pick one pharmacy location to fill any narcotic/opioid prescriptions.
3. Any abuse, altering or forging of a prescription will result in immediate termination from the practice. This is a felony and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
4. Prescriptions that have been lost, misplaced or stolen will not be refilled.

\*Please note - narcotics/opioids are never kept on premises.