

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 2:38 PM
To: PRESCRIBED PRODUCTS
Subject: samples to health care providers

There are many controls through the insurers and their pharmacy control plans on the prescriptions we write. In fact, we are often asked to change long standing, stable meds because now the insurer has a contract with a different manufacturer and wants the med changed. We are not allowed by the insurer to write for the most expensive new drug frivolously.

Samples are used in my office to try a med that might have an expensive co-pay to be sure the patient tolerates the med before buying it. Also, I find it especially critical to have insulin samples. I am certain that many of my diabetic patients would never be converted to insulin, often the preferred treatment, if the sample were not available to give the first dose here in the office.

I do not benefit in any way from the presence of samples except for the satisfaction of knowing my patient is getting the best medication possible. I am certainly not out on the street selling samples!!

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