**Private Insurance Plans:**

**General Statement about the filling of diabetes supplies:**

Many are aware that the purchase of various diabetes supplies such as test strips, needles, pen needles, lancets, etc. does not necessarily require a prescription from a physician. This often leads to confusion when pharmacy requests a prescription when filling these diabetic supplies for billing a private insurance plan. The rationale behind this is that 3rd party plans place the requirement on pharmacy for billing purposes of having a valid annual prescription from a licensed prescriber. Prescriptions for these products are deemed valid by these 3rd party plans for 1 year from when they were written.

Additionally, many of the 3rd party plans deem ‘unlimited refills’ or ‘1 year supply’ not valid for a quantity on the prescription. Many plans do not even like the directions of ‘use as directed’ or ‘use as needed.’ When pharmacy fills a prescription with this lingo, they are in jeopardy of having the claim(s) clawed back upon audit. This of course is difficult when prescribing insulin/diabetes supplies since the dose and usage may vary greatly depending on many factors. Thus when writing prescriptions for these items, it is most helpful to write the prescription with definitive directions and quantities. Overestimate usage such that a favorable days supply can be entered when filling the prescription.

Eg. One touch test strips

Sig: Test 8X/day

Mitte: 20 boxes

Eg. Lantus insulin

Sig: Use upto 100U/day

Mitte: 20 boxes