

Q. A patient comes Monday in needing a to get her prescription refilled for clonazepam. This patient received her last prescription for clonazepam 22 days ago. The last time she got it filled it was for a 30 day supply. You submit the Rx billing and get a "refill too soon" message. The prescription can be filled in two days. The patient tells you that the physician said it was ok to increase the dose if they felt they needed it. You call the physicians office to clarify this unfortunately the prescriber doesn't work on Mondays. The patient offers to pay cash because the Rx only cost's \$11.00. What can and should you do?

A. By law the patient is not allowed to pay cash for prescriptions if he or she is on Medicaid. Until you can reach the physician or another prescriber who is willing to sign off on this there is nothing you can do. If the patient is not a Medicaid beneficiary, you may be able to accept cash, subject to the pharmacy's contract with the beneficiary's insurer.

Q. What does JCAHO deem as "sporadic" use when referring to abbreviations? Name at least 5 abbreviations mentioned in the last class.

A. If the physician uses these abbreviation less than 10% of the time.

U (for unit)

Mistaken for 0, 4, cc

IU (intl. Unit)

μ

Q.D. or Q.O.D

Mistaken for each other or period = 1

Trailing zero 1.0 mg

Period is missed

Lack of leading zero

.1 mg period gets missed.

MS

MS04

MgS04

Morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate

µg (microgram)

Mistaken for milligram use mcg

HS – (bedtime or half strength) Mistaken for each other q hs mistaken for every hour T.I.W (3 times per week) Mistaken for tid, twice/wk

AS, AD, AU for ears

Mistaken for OS, OD, OU (eyes)

S.C. or S.Q. (for subcutaneous) mistaken for sublingual or 5 every

Write SubQ or full word

D/C (for discharge)

Mistaken for discontinue

cc (for cubic centimeter) mistaken for U (units)