**Prescription Medication Policy: Effective 1-20-18**

Oregon Naturopathic Clinic offers prescription medications as an add-on convenience service for our patients that need a handful of relatively straightforward prescriptions (examples include blood pressure lowering medications, anti-depressants, antibiotics, and synthetic thyroid) or natural specialized prescriptions (examples include natural desiccated thyroid, LDN, bioidentical hormones and compounded medications). We are happy to provide this service so as to centralize and reduce the number of medical visits needed for our patients when possible. In addition, because we take the time to get to know you we are sometimes better able to individualize your prescriptions to your specific health care needs. We do this by selecting the best form and titrating to the optimized dosage from a holistic perspective.

We ask that if you need a new prescription please schedule an office visit before communicating (by phone or email) that request to Dr. Kim. If you have an existing prescription from Dr. Kim and need a medication refill you must be seen at least once per year (and potentially more often depending on the situation).  Certain medications may also require physical exams and lab testing.  This is to ensure that we aren’t prescribing something that is no longer needed or can even be damaging to your health.  Your wellbeing is our most important priority, and as such this policy is in place to promote your safety, health and well-being.

If you need to schedule a yearly checkup which will include authorizing prescription refills, please schedule your appointment for at least a week in advance of running out of your medication. Dr. Kim cannot guarantee that she will be able to call in all routine medications the same day. Exceptions to this rule include new medications for acute conditions seen in office, which will always get called in same day. Routine refills typically get called in either same day or within 1-2 business days. Please note our typical process is to discuss your medication with your pharmacy/pharmacist over the phone, we typically don’t do written prescriptions but will fax in prescriptions when needed.

Our clinic chooses not to prescribe DEA controlled substances and we limit the total number and types of non-DEA medications we do prescribe. If you need a DEA prescription please find an additional provider who can offer this service. If Dr. Kim determines that the types and/or total number prescription medications exceeds our ability to manage she will recommend you find an additional provider who can offer these services. In either case we can still provide you with your natural health care needs. We choose to keep our focus primarily in natural medicine, and while our professional training and licensing does include/allow pharmacological prescriptions, taking the time to do multiple poly-pharmacy and DEA controlled prescriptions would take away from our ability to remain top experts in natural medicine. Our primary mission is to assist you in restoring your health as naturally as possible, working on lifestyle and other modifiable factors.

We welcome communication regarding any difficulties you may have with filling an existing prescription from Dr. Kim (pharmacy issues, concerns about access to your prescription etc.). Giving a heads up that you would like us to consider a new prescription medication for you at your already scheduled next visit is also appropriate. Questions regarding the details of this policy are also welcome.

Thank you for your understanding and giving us the opportunity to help assist you in achieving your health care goals and meeting your natural health care and prescription needs.