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Press Release

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New Workers' Compensation Prescription Drug Regulation Effective July 31

JUNEAU, Alaska—Under a new regulation that governs prescription drugs provided to an employee as a medical benefit under the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act, generic drugs must be dispensed. An employee may choose a name-brand drug, but the cost difference must be paid by the employee.

Key components of Alaska Regulation 8 AAC 45.081, which became effective on July 31:

- A generic drug must be dispensed in place of a name-brand drug.
- The Alaska Medicaid Preferred Drug List is adopted as the preferred drug list.
- Prescription of a name-brand drug over a generic drug, or a name-brand drug not on the preferred drug list, requires written justification from the prescribing physician.
- An employee may choose a name-brand drug over a generic drug, but the cost difference must be paid by the employee.

The full regulation is available online at <http://labor.alaska.gov/wc/forms/prescr-eff-20100731.pdf> or a hard copy can be requested at:

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