

October, 2017

The Virginia Board of Medicine has adopted emergency regulations, with the establishment of new rules regarding the prescribing of opioids for chronic pain management and benzodiazepines for treatment of anxiety and depression. The staff at Bassett Family Practice and Ridgeway Family Health are committed to following the new rules fully while following clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of chronic pain (pain lasting more than 3 months).

According to these new guidelines, Bassett Family Practice and Ridgeway Family Health, will not be prescribing chronic pain medication and certain medications used to treat anxiety/depression. The providers are committed to establishing a treatment plan that includes:

1. Measures to provide non-pharmacological pain relief to increase quality of life and daily activities
2. Diagnostic evaluation
3. Referral for specialty care as indicated