

Patient Information Sheet for Chronic Opioid Use

General Information

Opioid medications are prescribed to help you manage pain that has not responded to other treatments. Their main purpose is to help you to improve your daily functioning. Although they can relieve some of the pain, they are especially valuable in helping you do those activities that are important to you.

Opioids are strong and potentially dangerous medications. They can cause addiction, and stopping them suddenly can result in symptoms of withdrawal such as anxiety, sweating, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. These are unpleasant symptoms but are not life threatening. Your physician/NP/PA is under no obligation to provide these medications to you, and he/she has the right to discontinue them at any time.

The opioid medication will no longer be prescribed if you do not agree and adhere to the following points.

Treatment and Appointments

- You must participate in other treatments which your provider recommends. These may include physical therapy, psychological counseling, and programs meant to help you remain physically active.
- You must keep regular appointments with your provider and all other providers as recommended.
- Two appointment cancellations with less than one working day's notice or two appointments for which you do not show up may be sufficient reason to stop the prescription of the medication.
- You must inform your provider within one business day if you have another condition (such as surgery or an injury) that requires the prescription of an opioid or other controlled substance, or if you are hospitalized for any reason.
- We may request that a case manager be involved with your care.

Medication Use and Prescribing

- You must take the medications exactly as prescribed. You should not change the dose of the medication or the frequency with which you take it unless you have your provider's approval.
- The only person who may prescribe pain medicine for you is the provider who signed the agreement with you. You should not seek or accept any prescriptions for opioids or other controlled drugs for pain control from anyone except this provider. This includes medication received from other providers, obtained from the Internet, borrowed or accepted from family or friends, or any illegal or street drugs. Controlled drugs include narcotics, tranquilizers, barbiturates, stimulants, and other drugs specified by the government.
- You must abstain from all illegal drugs including the abuse of alcohol. Your provider may also require you to avoid the use of alcohol completely. You will provide a urine or blood specimen to be tested for the presence of these drugs whenever your provider asks you to do so.
- Lost or stolen prescriptions will not be replaced.

Pharmacy and Refills

- You must designate one pharmacy where you will receive your opioid medication and not purchase or accept opioids from any other pharmacy. Your provider may provide a copy of this agreement to your pharmacy. If you change your pharmacy you must contact your provider's office and provide them with the name, address, and phone number of the new pharmacy. You will be required sign a new opioid agreement with the new pharmacy listed at your next visit to your provider's office if you are to continue receiving the medication.
- You must not request early refills. If the amount of medication you are receiving is not sufficient to control your pain, you should discuss this with your provider at your next visit.
- You will be responsible for keeping track of how much medication you have left. You should plan ahead and arrange refills in a timely manner so that you will not run out of medications.
 - Refills will be made only during regular office hours, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
 - Refills will not be made at night, Fridays after 12:00 noon, on weekends, or during holidays.
 - Allow at least two days for prescriptions that will be faxed to your pharmacy and five days for prescriptions that must be mailed to your pharmacy. Schedule 2 drug prescriptions must be mailed, while schedule 3, 4, and 5 drug prescriptions can be faxed.

Termination of the Opioid Medication

- Reasons for which your provider or his/her medical staff may terminate the opioid agreement and stop prescribing the medication include:
 - You seek or obtain any pain medication from a source other than your provider.
 - You give, sell, or in any way distribute your prescribed medication to any other person.
 - You forge or alter a prescription.
 - You attempt to deceive your provider or another provider in order to receive more medication.
 - Your medical condition declines to the point at which, in the judgment of your provider, continued use of the medication presents a danger to your well-being or safety.
 - Failure to comply with any of the points listed above or in your opioid agreement.
 - There is evidence that you no longer receive a reasonable therapeutic benefit from the medication, or your provider determines you are no longer a good candidate to continue the medication.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please contact your provider or their medical staff.