

NARCOTIC MEDICATION POLICY

Narcotics are pain medications that can create side effects including, but not limited to: drowsiness, tolerance, and addiction. Many narcotics, such as Percocet and Vicodin, contain acetaminophen (Tylenol), which if taken in doses greater than 4,000mg can cause liver failure and even death. For these reasons, your orthopedic surgeon prescribes narcotic pain medications with caution in appropriate situations, such as after surgery. Patients whose conditions do not require surgical intervention or who have chronic pain may be referred back to their Primary Care Physician or the Pain Management Service. In addition, if you are already taking pain medication(s) prescribed by another physician, we will often recommend that this physician continue to prescribe your pain medications, if indicated. We will adhere to this plan until a final diagnosis is made and a specific treatment plan is undertaken.

Patients will be prescribed controlled substances while under our care only if they adhere to the following conditions. If a patient violates any of the following, his/her prescriptions and/or treatment by our practice may be terminated.

Medications must only be used as prescribed.

Patients will be given a **ONE or Two**-week quantity of medications at a time POST OPERATIVELY and if the need for medication continues beyond the normal post operative recovery time, the patient may be asked to seek help at a pain clinic or a rehabilitation facility.

Any altering of a prescription may be reported to all physicians caring for the patient, local medical facilities, pharmacies and other authorities such as the local police department, Drug Enforcement Agency, etc. as deemed appropriate for the situation.

Patients should safeguard their prescriptions/pain medications against being lost or stolen. We do not replace prescriptions that are misplaced.

If patients are receiving narcotics they should only be prescribed by one practice. If other providers issue pain medication prescriptions, we need to know for your safety.

Patients who have pain that is out of proportion or lasts longer than what is usual and customary will require a follow-up appointment for reassessment of their condition and the need for pain medication. This is for your safety.

Prescription requests should be called in by 1:00 mid-day, Monday through Thursday.

IF prescriptions can be phoned in to a pharmacy, please allow the office 48 hours to process the request. Class II narcotics such as Percocet, Dilaudid and Oxycodone, Oxycontin cannot be phoned in to a pharmacy. We only mail prescriptions directly to a pharmacy, not a patient's home. Please supply the pharmacy address and phone number.

Please allow 2-3 days from the day the prescription is called in until it is received.

Also note, that it is the strict policy of this office that narcotics and other pain medications will NOT be refilled on weekends, holidays or after regular office hours.