



PAIN CARE SPECIALISTS OF FLORIDA

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CHRONIC NARCOTIC THERAPY AGREEMENT

This agreement between the Pain Center and you the patient, _____ is intended to clarify the way chronic narcotics will be used to manage your chronic pain. Chronic narcotic therapy in patients who do not suffer from cancer is a controversial issue. The physicians at Pain Center have decided that you are an appropriate candidate for this form of therapy. As with all medications, there are risks such as allergy. Other side effects include sedation, itching, urinary hesitancy, nausea and vomiting. There are some special concerns when it comes to the use of narcotics, such as addiction, tolerance and drug dependency.

Tolerance

Over time, you will develop a certain amount of tolerance to the narcotic. The amount of tolerance is not known. Therefore, the initial dose of medication may become less effective over time. However, we may not increase your dosage in response to this. Obviously, we could not increase the dosage indefinitely. The final dosage will be decided between you and your doctor.

Physical Dependence

You will develop physical dependence on the drug. Therefore, you cannot stop this drug abruptly or you will experience symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, sweating and general malaise. If we do decide to stop the treatment, we will taper them slowly.

Addiction

There are some concerns about addiction. Most experts feel that the risk of addiction is very, very low when using these medications. If you have any questions about these various issues, i.e. tolerance, dependency or addiction, please talk with your doctor. The Pain Center will prescribe narcotics for you only if you follow the rules below:

1. Obtain narcotic prescriptions only from doctors at Pain Center except in following situations: If a new acute problem develops, such as trauma or surgery, then the doctor taking care of you for that acute problem may give you narcotics for a short time to cover your increase in pain that one can expect.
2. You need to be present for the follow-up examinations as indicated by your physicians. These are usually at monthly intervals in the beginning and which are decreased in frequency to 3 to 6 month intervals as time goes on.
3. You agree to be referred for psychological testing at our physician's request. Failure to do so will be grounds for discontinuation of therapy. Based on psychological evaluation it may be decided that you are not a candidate for continued chronic opioid/narcotic therapy.
4. You agree to submit to urine drug screening at your physician's request.
5. Renewal of medication will only be done following a scheduled visit to the Pain Center. Always have an idea of how many pills you have remaining. If you are running low on medications or anticipate an extended leave, contact the Pain Center. Frequent phone calls after hours or weekends requesting narcotics are an indication of inappropriate narcotic usage and may be grounds for discontinuation of therapy.
6. Any narcotic medication lost or misplaced WILL NOT be renewed under any circumstances.

Patient's Name (Printed)

Patient's Signature

Date