

CHRONIC PAIN AND OPIOID MEDICATION POLICIES

Before your doctor first decides to prescribe opioid pain medications for you, we will need medical records from your previous doctors and a urine drug screen. We will also obtain a report from the state that shows which controlled substances, if any, have been prescribed for you in the past year. We require these items in order to make good decisions about your treatment.

Please note that at least once a year you will need to provide a urine sample. We will also obtain a report from the state, at least once yearly, that outlines the prescriptions you have received from pharmacies.

As part of your opioid treatment plan, we will require that you sign a controlled substance agreement once a year. Please read this agreement carefully, as it has useful and detailed information that is not discussed in this policy letter.

To provide you with the best possible care, we will need to monitor your prescriptions. This will be done during scheduled office visits. Most patients will need to be seen at least every one to three months.

Your prescriptions will be written to last until your next visit. If you have a problem with your condition between office visits, you should schedule an office visit with your health care provider at that time. Please note that opioid prescription refills will not be given over the phone unless you have arranged this ahead of time with your doctor. Any medications that are lost or stolen will not be replaced.

Additionally, you will be expected to use other medical treatments to improve your pain. It may not be possible to completely remove all of your pain. However, our goal in many cases is to return your functionality to an accepted level. Your health care team is able to provide the best treatment for you if we have good communication. You and your health care providers should be respectful of each other for treatment to continue.

Your responsibilities

- Give a urine sample when asked.
- Have your medical records sent to us.
- Come to all of your appointments.
- Work with your doctor on other ways to improve your pain.

Our responsibilities

- Listen and respond to you.
- Keep good track of your medications.
- Work with you to maximize your functionality.



FPM Toolbox To find more practice resources, visit <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/toolbox>.

Developed by The University of Michigan Health System Department of Family Medicine, Ann Arbor, Mich. Copyright © 2014 American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians may duplicate or adapt for use in their own practices; all other rights reserved. Related article: <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/2014/1100/p6.html>.