

EAST NORTHPORT MEDICAL CARE, PLLC
NARCOTIC/OPIOID/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBING POLICY

1. The prescribing of these medications for chronic pain is a challenge under the best of circumstances due to issues of substance abuse, addiction, legal requirements, the historical high percentage of drug abusers intermingled with the chronic pain population, and other factors. The goal of our medical practice is to provide these medications when deemed appropriate utilizing the guidelines of the Federation of State Medical Boards in order to continue prescribing them to patients. It is necessary to have tight controls and rigid rules established to eliminate those who procure these medications for illegal purposes or for substance abuse, to protect the privileges of our practice to prescribe, maintain the health and welfare of the patients, and to obey the laws under which we operate, both federal and state.

2. These medications are but one avenue of pain therapy and never represent the sole method of pain control. They have potential for addiction and substance abuse, are diverted by some for sale or for improper routes of administration or are shared with others may produce dependence, tolerance, and addiction. Side effects include sedation, respiratory depression, swelling in the feet, dental decay acceleration, hives, itching, slurred speech, impaired thinking and function to the point a person may be dangerous when driving or operating machinery when taking , ICU admission, coma, and death. For these reasons, we reserve the right to change to a non-narcotic/opioid/controlled substance therapy at any time it is medically indicated. We also reserve the right to insist on an in or out patient treatment for dependence. There is no implied or expressed patient right to narcotic/opioid/controlled substance therapy in a physician's office or in a hospital.

3 EXPECTATIONS OF APPROPRIATE PATIENT BEHAVIOR AND RESPONSIBILITY

a. Our medical practice will be the only entity prescribing medication for chronic pain. If there is acute pain for a new condition for which the patient seeks care elsewhere, our practice must be called to let us know of the other physician's prescribing, and at that time we may adjust your medications. If it is discovered patients are chronically receiving medications from multiple physicians, we will immediately discontinue medication prescribing and notify pharmacies and other treating physicians of the patient's substance abuse.

b. In certain states, there may be laws prohibiting patients from obtaining narcotics under false pretenses (e.g. seeing multiple physicians for narcotics without notifying the other physicians). In all states, there are laws which prohibit sharing of prescription narcotics with others, changing or altering a narcotic prescription in order to obtain early refills or an increased quantity of narcotics, or the selling or trading of narcotics. These events are felonies under federal law and are not protected by the patient doctor professional relationship, therefore any information we receive regarding the commission of a felony will be reported to the police or US Drug Enforcement Agency.

c. Refills of scripts for narcotics are only performed during scheduled office visits. We will not call in narcotic prescriptions nor write prescriptions at the time of patient procedures or during non-office hours

d. There are no early refills, period. The patient is expected to make the prescription quantity last until the next office visit.

We do not refill prescriptions that were lost, stolen, spilled, eaten by the cat, etc. The responsibility for safe keeping of these medications lies solely with the patient. Therefore, each patient is expected to keep a lock box or location for safekeeping for the main supply of the narcotic medication instead of carrying around the entire month's supply.

4. REASONS NARCOTICS MAY BE IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUED: Reasons for which narcotics will be stopped immediately and without any withdrawal medications include but are not limited to evidence of prescription alteration or fraud or solid evidence presented to our clinic that the patient has been selling the narcotics, sharing narcotics with others, injection of oral or trans dermal narcotics, threats of legal action or violence made against any of our staff in order to obtain narcotics, etc. In such cases the police will be called immediately to report a felony drug diversion or attempted extortion, and the patient will be immediately discharged from our practice. Committing a narcotics related crime is not protected by doctor-patient privilege and will not be tolerated by our practice. Additionally, refusal to take a urine drug screen within 24 hours of the request, refusal to bring in medications for a pill count when requested, a positive drug test for illicit drug use or narcotics not prescribed by our clinic, or a negative urine drug screen for narcotics we are prescribing will be met with discontinuation of narcotics. External source confirmation of "doctor shopping" or obtaining narcotics chronically from multiple physicians simultaneously will require sudden narcotic discontinuation impairment of the patient to such a degree that in the opinion of our medical practice that the patient poses a risk to themselves or to others may require narcotic discontinuation.

I have read the above policy and agree to abide by ENMC'S narcotic/opioid/controlled substance prescription policy.

Patients/Parents Signature (if under 18)

Date