



Dear Patient,

There have been some significant regulatory changes to Opioid prescription oversight recently. The bulk of the changes will take effect in June of 2018. We always strive to communicate openly, honestly and respectfully with our patients. In that spirit, we are sharing our updated prescription management policies reflecting the new law. We look forward to a continued care relationship; a relationship we believe will be enhanced by a mutual commitment to the new prescription management requirements including:

- (1) Before a health care provider prescribes opioid pain medications a report from Michigan's prescription monitoring program must be obtained. The prescription monitoring program report shows which controlled substances, if any, have been prescribed for the patient in the past year. The prescription monitoring report must also be run prior to every prescription refill so that a provider can make the best decisions about a patient's ongoing treatment.
- (2) Patients are required to submit mandatory random urine or saliva sample(s) for screening as part of their prescription oversight.
- (3) Patients must sign a Pain Management Agreement with each new, or re-filled, opioid prescription. The patient must read the agreement carefully as it contains useful and detailed information about patient obligations.
- (4) Scheduled office visits, independent of other medical problems, for monitoring opioid and/or controlled substance prescriptions are required. Most patients will need to be seen at least every three months for prescription management visits.
- (5) Prescriptions will be written to last until the next office visit. If there is a problem between visits, patients are expected to schedule an appointment with their health care provider at that time.
- (6) Opioid prescription refills will not be given over the phone. Any medications that are lost or stolen will not be replaced.

Patient Responsibilities:

- Have your medical records sent to us if you are new to the practice.
- Come to all your appointments.
- Safely keep track of your medications.
- Work with your healthcare team on other ways to improve your pain.
- Give a urine or saliva samples when asked.
- Communicate honestly and respectfully with all staff.
- Use other medical treatments to improve pain and help reduce the need for prescription medication.

WFPC Responsibilities

- Provide the best possible treatment for your condition.
- Work closely with patients to set pain management goals and develop a treatment plan that will help achieve stated goals.
- Assess the risk and benefits of prescription opioids and prescribe opioids only when their benefits outweigh their risk.
- Listen and respond.
- Review medications for safe and effective dosing.
- Maximize patient functionality.

We appreciate the trust patients place in us to provide their care. It is essential that patients and their healthcare providers discuss treatment options and consider the risks and benefits of prescription therapy. Some medications, such as prescription opioids, can help relieve pain in the short term, but also come with serious risks and potential complications and should be prescribed and used carefully. Your healthcare provider will work with you to weigh benefits versus risk and create an appropriate plan to help you manage your pain. While some chronic pain can not be eliminated completely, it is our goal to restore patients to maximum functionality.