

Informed Consent & Agreement for Opioid Therapy

Pain relief is an important goal for your care/therapy. Opioid medications may be a helpful part of pain management for some people; however, misuse of opioid medications may result in serious harm to patients prescribed them and, when the medications are diverted, to the public at large. As opioid use for pain management has increased in recent years, injury, addiction, and death due to misuse of opioids have also increased.

Patients and health care providers both have responsibilities for the safe use of opioid medications when they are prescribed for pain. This agreement provides important information on the potential benefits and risks of opioid medications and serves to document that both you and your provider agree on a care plan so that opioid medications are used in a way that is safe and effective in treating your pain. This agreement is reviewed and signed by all patients on our unit who receive opioids for pain/chronic pain.

Expected Benefits or Goals of Opioid Treatment

- Improved pain
- Improved ability for rehab program
- Improved quality of life

Potential Risks or Side Effects of Opioid Treatment

- Physical side effects – These may include constipation, nausea, drowsiness, itching, urination difficulties, depressed breathing.
- Physical dependence – Suddenly stopping use of an opioid may lead to withdrawal symptoms including abdominal cramping, pain, diarrhea, sweating, anxiety, irritability, and aching.
- Tolerance – The same dose of opioid may become less effective over time even though there is no change in your physical condition.
- Addiction – Addiction is more common in people with personal or family history of addiction, but can occur in anyone.
- Impaired Functions – It may not be safe for a person using opioids to drive a car, operate machinery, or take care of other people.
- Hyperalgesia – Increasing sensitivity to and/or increasing experience of pain caused by the use of opioids may require change or discontinuation of medication.
- Overdose – Taking more than the prescribed amount of medication or using with alcohol or other drugs can cause you to stop breathing resulting in coma, brain damage, or even death.

I have reviewed this document and been given the opportunity to have any questions answered. I acknowledge the following:

- I am responsible for my pain medications and agree to take the medication not more frequently than prescribed and only if needed to manage pain. I understand that increasing

my dose without my doctor's knowledge could lead to a drug overdose, causing severe sedation and respiratory depression, and possibly death.

- Without prior disclosure to my doctor, I will not request or accept controlled substance medication from any other healthcare provider or individual while I am receiving such medication from my doctor.
- I understand that the opioid prescription I have been given is for my own use and attest that I will not give or sell any portion of the prescription to another individual.
- I understand the possible benefits and risks of opioid medications.

RESIDENT

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Printed Name

Date

Date