Narcotics Policy

Our doctors take a compassionate approach to the management of both short and long-term pain and the use of narcotic medications is an essential tool in the care of a patient in pain. We wish to alleviate suffering in its many forms.

This goal, however, must be tempered with the credo Primum non nocere or “first do no harm.” The vast prevalence of addiction in our communities has necessitated several policies to which our patients must be made aware. Because of the risk of addiction and the strict oversight of the State of Michigan, our practice’s policies are as follows:

1. On a first new patient visit, no narcotics or other controlled substances will be prescribed in the absence of a clear, acute, injury.

2. Patients requiring chronic pain medications or long term controlled substance therapy must enter a written controlled substance contract, and agree to use only one doctor and only one pharmacy.

3. Urine drug screens may be requested at any time.

4. Chronic narcotic management requires individual visits to address the diagnosis and its treatment independently of other medical problems. Usually this requires a dedicated visit every 3 months, or more often.

5. Patients found in violation of controlled substance contract will no longer be prescribed narcotic medication and may be discharged from the Practice.

Effective 03/22/2013