

# Center for Neurosurgical and Spinal Disorders

## Pain Medication Policy

The physicians and nurse practitioners are only able to provide pain medications to patients that are currently involved in active and ongoing care. Prior to considering dispensing of any medications, emphasis will be placed on conservative therapies for pain control. The following is a policy in which our providers and patients are expected to follow:

- Pain medication must be taken as prescribed. Patients should not increase the medication dosage or frequency without first consulting with the provider. Failure to do so or improper use of medications may lead to termination of the provider-patient relationship. Any lost or stolen medications will not be replaced.
- Patients must use only one provider for all narcotics. If you are already on a prescribed narcotic and CNSD did not initiate the prescription, you will be referred back to the prescribing provider. If there is an indication for surgical intervention, pain medications may be prescribed at the providers' discretion.
- Unless the patient is under an active treatment plan, we require that the patient has been seen by one of our health care providers in the prior three months. If the patient has not been seen within the recommended time frame for follow-up, an appointment may be necessary before refills can be authorized. Patient must keep all scheduled follow up appointments and ordered imaging/therapies.
- If it is determined that the patient requires surgical intervention, pain medication will be prescribed prior to surgery if deemed necessary. During the three-month surgical recovery phase, the amount of medication will be gradually reduced to help the patient avoid a dependency of the drug.
- If long-term pain management is required, the patient will be referred to a pain clinic or to his or her primary care physician.
- If you are already under contract with a pain management physician, then all medications adjustments will need to be authorized by that provider and it is the patient's obligation to seek approval from their provider prior to filling any pain medications prescribed by our providers during treatment.
- All requests for prescriptions or refills of medications must be completed during office hours. For the patient's safety, the chart must be available for review before a medication can be prescribed or refilled. We require a 24-hour notice for prescription refills request to be received and completed. Refill requests made after 12 pm on Friday will not be filled until the following Monday.

**I HAVE THOROUGHLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS OF CARE DESCRIBED ABOVE AND WILL COMPLY WITH THEM. I KNOW THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THESE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF SERVICE.**

Patient Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_