

A Note on Opioids

(Narcotic Medications)

Dear Patients,

As you may well be aware, the United States is currently experiencing an unprecedented opioid epidemic with respect to misuse, dependency, and addiction. As a result, many organizations including the CDC, FDA, and California Medical Board have adopted guidelines and recommendations regarding the safe and prudent prescribing of opioid medications.

At Comprehensive Spine & Pain Physicians, all of our providers pay close attention to opioid prescribing guidelines while also balancing the need for patients to have access to opioid medications, when indicated and appropriate.

We have created this pamphlet to better educate our patients and also lay a foundation of how Opioid Medications are managed in our practice. Please read and sign below indicating you have reviewed this document. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

- » *The decision to start any patient on Opioid Medications is made by the evaluating physician or physician assistant at CSPP; often times non-opioid medications are considered before hand or instead.*
- » *We do not "take over" opioid prescriptions from your previous provider. Instead a determination for opioids is made after a thorough evaluation and often the drug and dose may be different then before.*
- » *We typically DO NOT prescribe opioids on the first visit. The decision to use opioids as part of a treatment regimen for our patients can only be made after results of a urine toxicology exam have been obtained and evaluated. This takes 7 to 10 days.*
- » *We strongly discourage or prohibit patients from taking Opioids while on sedatives, sleep medications, or Benzodiazepines.*
- » *Compliance with recommended therapies, examinations, and referrals are required for ongoing opioid prescriptions.*

I have read the information on opioid medications provided by Comprehensive Spine & Pain Physicians above.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Today's Date _____