

A NOTE ON OPIOIDS (Narcotic Medications)

Dear Patients,

As you may be well 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 the California Medical Board, have adopted guidelines and recommendations regarding 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 the following to better educate our patients, as well as lay a foundation of how Opioid medications are managed in our practice. Please read and sign below indicating that you have reviewed this document. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

CSPP- Best Practices with Opioids

- The decision to start any patient on Opioid Medications is made by the evaluating physician or physician assistant at CSPP; often non-opioid medications are considered beforehand or after.
- 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 than prescribed 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 7-10 business 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: _____ Date _____

Patient Signature: _____