

Living with chronic pain can be devastating, and effective pain management is important to getting your life back. For your health and wellbeing, Eaton Rapids Medical Center Family Practice and Springport Medical Clinic are improving the way opioids are prescribed so that we can ensure patients have access to safer, more effective chronic pain treatment while reducing the number of people who misuse, abuse, or overdose from these drugs.

It is essential that you and your health care provider discuss treatment options, carefully considering all of the risks and benefits. Some medications, such as prescription opioids, can help relieve pain in the short term, but also come with serious risks and potential complications—and should be prescribed and used carefully. Your health care provider will work with you to weigh benefits versus risks and create an appropriate plan to help you effectively manage your pain.

Before your health care provider first decides to prescribe opioid pain medications for you, we will need a drug screen and will obtain a report from Michigan's prescription monitoring program that shows which controlled substances, if any, have been prescribed for you in the past year. We require these items in order to make good decisions about your treatment.

Please note that at least once a year you will need to provide a urine or saliva sample for screening. We will also obtain a report from Michigan's prescription monitoring program, at least every 3 months, which outlines the prescriptions you have received from pharmacies.

As part of your opioid treatment plan, we will require that you sign a controlled substance agreement once a year. Please read this agreement carefully, as it has useful and detailed information that is not discussed in this policy letter.

To provide you with the best possible care, we will need to monitor your prescriptions. This will be done during scheduled office visits, independent of other medical problems. Most patients will need to be seen at least every one to three months.

Your prescriptions will be written to last until your next visit. If you have a problem with your condition between office visits, you should schedule an office visit with your health care provider at that time. Please note that opioid prescription refills will not be given over the phone unless you have arranged this ahead of time with your health care provider. Any medications that are lost or stolen will not be replaced.

Additionally, you will be expected to use other medical treatments to improve your pain. It may not be possible to completely remove all of your pain. However, our goal in many cases is to return your functionality to an accepted level. Your health care team is able to provide the best treatment for you if we have good communication. You and your health care providers should be respectful of each other for treatment to continue.

#### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Come to all of your appointments.
- Have your medical records sent to us.
- Safely keep track of your medications.
- Work with your health care team on other ways to improve your pain.
- Give a urine or saliva sample when asked.

#### **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide the best possible treatment for your condition.
- Work closely with you to set pain management goals and develop a treatment plan that will help you achieve your goals.
- Assess the risks and benefits of prescription opioids with you, and prescribe opioids only when their benefits outweigh their risks.
- Listen and respond to you.
- Review your medications for safe and effective dosing.
- Work with you to maximize your functionality.