Atlantic Spine&Pain

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Consent for Chronic Opioid Therapy

Name_____Date_____

I understand that Dr. Duncan ("my physician") is recommending opioid medicine, sometimes called narcotic analgesics, to treat my pain. I understand that this medication is being recommended because my pain complaints are moderate to severe and other treatments have not sufficiently helped my pain. I understand that many medications can have interactions with opioids that can either increase or decrease their effect. Therefore, I have told my physician about all other medicines and treatments that I am receiving – and that I will promptly advise my physician if I start to take any new medications or have new treatments. Likewise, I have told my physician about my complete personal drug history and that of my family. I have been informed by my physician that the initiation of a narcotic/opioid medication is a trial. Continuation of the medication is based on evidence of benefit to me from, associated side effects of, and compliance with instructions on, usage of the medication. I have also been informed by my physician that continuation and any changes in dosage of the medication will be determined by pain relief, functional improvement, side effects, and adherence to usage restrictions. Lack of significant improvement, the development of adverse side effects, or other considerations may lead my physician to discontinue this treatment or to change dosage. It has been explained to me that taking narcotic/opioid medication has certain risks associated with it. These include, but are not limited to, the following: • Allergic reactions • Overdose (which could result in harm or even death) • Slowing of breathing rate • Slowing of reflexes or reaction time • Sleepiness, drowsiness, dizziness, and/or confusion • Impaired judgment and inability to operate machines or drive motor vehicles • Nausea, vomiting, and/or constipation • Itching • Physical dependence or tolerance to the pain relieving properties of the medication (This means that if my medication is stopped, reduced in dose, or rendered less effective by other medications I may be taking, I may experience runny nose, yawning, large pupils, goose bumps, abdominal pain and cramping, diarrhea, irritability, aches throughout my body, and a flu-like feeling. These can be very painful but are generally not life-threatening.) • Addiction • Failure to provide pain relief • Changes in sexual function (This is generally caused by reduced testosterone levels. Such reduced levels may affect mood, stamina, sexual desire and physical and sexual performance.) • Changes in hormonal levels In addition, use of these medications poses special risks to women who are pregnant or may become pregnant. If I plan to become pregnant or believe that I have become pregnant while taking this pain medicine, I will immediately call my obstetrician and this office to inform them. I have been advised that, should I carry a baby to delivery while taking this medication, the baby will be physically dependent upon opioids. I also understand that birth defects can occur whether or not the mother is on medicines and there is always the possibility that my child will have a birth defect while I am taking an opioid. Furthermore, I recognize that the long-term consequence on a child's development who was exposed to opioids is not understood. It has been explained to me that there are other treatments that do not involve use of narcotic/opioid medications. Having been informed of these risks and potential benefits both of such medications and possible alternative treatments, I have freely consented to taking the narcotic/opioid medication. I would note that I have been given the opportunity of ask any questions that I may have – and that any questions

that I have raised have been discussed to my satisfaction. I will take this/these medication(s) only as prescribed and I will not change the amount or dosing frequency without authorization from my physician. I understand that unauthorized changes may result in my running out of medications early, and early refills may not be allowed. I also understand that if I do not take the medication correctly, I may have withdrawal reactions that may include stomach pain, sweating, anxiety, nausea, vomiting and general discomfort. I have been advised by my physician that certain other medicines such as nalbuphine (Nubain ™), pentazocine (Talwin™), buprenorphine (Buprenex™), and butorphanol (Stadol™), may reverse the action of the medicine I am using for pain control. I understand that taking any of these other medicines while I am taking my pain medicines can cause symptoms like a bad flu, called a withdrawal syndrome. I agree not to take any of these medicines and to tell any other doctors that I am taking an opioid as my pain medicine and cannot take any of the medicines listed above. I will obtain all opioids prescriptions from my physician or, during his or her absence, by the covering physician. Requests for pain medications from the on-call physician (nights and weekends) will not be honored. I will not request medications outside of normal business hours. I will obtain all scheduled medications from one pharmacy. I will notify my physician if I change pharmacies. The pharmacy that I have selected is: _____. Its phone number is: _____ I hereby authorize my physician to discuss all diagnostic and treatment details of my condition with the pharmacists at the dispensing pharmacy. I will submit to random pill counts and urine and/or blood drug tests as requested by my physician to monitor my treatment. I understand that the presence of any unauthorized substances in my urine or blood may prompt referral for assessment of addiction or chemical dependency and could result in discontinuation of further opioid prescriptions. I also understand that failure to follow these rules may lead to my no longer being treated by my physician after a 30-day, emergency only period. I will not share, sell or otherwise permit others to have access to these medications. I HAVE READ THIS FORM OR HAVE HAD IT READ TO ME. I UNDERSTAND ALL OF IT. I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO HAVE ALL OF MY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS TREATMENT ANSWERED TO MY SATISFACTION. BY SIGNING THIS FORM VOLUNTARILY, I GIVE MY CONSENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF MY PAIN WITH OPIOID PAIN MEDICINES. I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THESE POLICIES WILL BE CONSIDERED NONCOMPLIANCE AND MAY RESULT IN CESSATION OF OPIOID PRESCRIBING BY MY PHYSICIAN AND POSSIBLE DISMISSAL FROM THIS CLINIC.

Patient signature_____Date_____
Witness to above_____