

NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTION POLICY

Due to the increasing rate of narcotic dependence/abuse nationwide, we at Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County have developed a Narcotic Prescription Policy limiting the use of these drugs in accordance with DEA and FDA guidelines. Please read this document carefully as this policy will be strictly enforced.

In general, narcotic pain medications will ONLY be prescribed for post-operative pain or after an acute injury. Patients who receive narcotic prescriptions will be closely monitored. Narcotics will generally be prescribed for a period of two to three weeks after a surgical procedure unless your surgeon extends the prescribing period based on your surgical procedure. There are, of course, occasional exceptions to the rule at the discretion of your treating physician. If you feel that you require narcotic pain medication after this point, we will provide you with the names of Pain Management providers who specialize in the treatment of chronic pain.

You must take the medication only as directed on the bottle, as refills will not be provided unless deemed necessary by your treating physician. If a patient is found to be taking these medications more than directed, or in the event of suspected narcotic abuse, further prescriptions of narcotic pain medications will not be provided.

The use of narcotics may affect your alertness, reaction time, judgment, and/or decision-making abilities. You should not drive, operate machinery, or make important decisions while under the influence of narcotics. Narcotics carry a risk of overdose. Do not combine narcotic use with the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances.

In the event that you are prescribed a narcotic that is ineffective in managing your pain or causes an adverse reaction, you must properly dispose of the remaining medication at a designated medication drop box prior to receiving a prescription for an alternate medication. A list of drop boxes, many of which are at police stations, is available upon request. We recommend obtaining a receipt for the medication disposal, if available.

Refills may take up to three (3) business days to process, so you must call in advance. We may need to see you to reevaluate your condition prior to renewing your prescription. Narcotic refills will NOT be provided after regular business hours.

To request a refill prescription, please contact your physician's patient care coordinator. When leaving a message, please indicate your name, date of birth, phone number, drug allergies, the name and phone number of your pharmacy, and the name and dosage (strength) of the medication. New York State law requires that all prescriptions must be sent to your pharmacy electronically, so it is vital that you provide us with the correct information.

Lost, damaged, or stolen prescriptions will NOT be replaced.

If you are receiving narcotics from another physician, you are expected to disclose this information to us at the time of your first visit. If this office receives notification that a patient is receiving narcotics from more than one physician, prescribing of such medication by this office will be immediately suspended. New York State has a central database that tracks prescriptions for controlled substances. Our office will consult this database prior to issuing a prescription.

If you feel that your symptoms are an emergency, you should seek medical attention at the nearest emergency room.

We have created this policy to ensure the health and safety of our patients. We appreciate your cooperation. By reading and signing this policy, you agree to the terms listed above. If you do not agree, we would be happy to assist you in finding a provider better able to meet your needs.

Patient Signature

Date

Patient Name