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The AHN Spine and Sport Care staff are committed to providing the best possible healthcare to our patients. We recognize, for the most part, patients come to see us because they are experiencing pain that interferes with their quality of life. Our goals are to help identify the source of your pain and then educate you about various treatment options. You are expected to take an active role in your own healthcare.

Our approach typically starts with non-invasive and conservative treatment to help reduce your pain. This may include physical therapy, home exercise program, and non-opioid medications. This approach complies with insurance recommendations for conservative treatment prior to more aggressive treatment. This approach is also in place to help patients achieve reduction in pain without invasive or surgical intervention. It is important to be comprehensive as pain impacts our patients daily and affects their quality of life.

The decision to prescribe opioids is not made lightly. This decision will be made after our patient has been through a thorough process of evaluation and other treatment trials. We reserve the right to evaluate the cause of your pain and make treatment recommendations. This may or may not include the use of opioids. Where opioids are prescribed, they generally will be only one part of a treatment plan that may also include physical therapy, home exercise, and other components.

Our patients will be expected to discuss the risks of addiction, abuse and misuse of opioids with their prescribing physician. They must sign our controlled substance contract, review potential side effects with their physician. Patients must be willing to work toward treatment goals that are set with your physician which may include tapering or discontinuing opioid medications altogether as directed by your physician.

### **Opioid (Narcotic) Policy**

- Our office will not take over prescribing narcotics started by another physician.
- You must be seen in clinic regularly for prescriptions. Your doctor will decide this interval.
- Prescriptions will be written for no more than a 30 day supply.
- Early fill requests will not be honored.
- Please allow 2 to 3 business days for responses to prescriptions requests
- Lost narcotic prescriptions will not be rewritten.
- Prescriptions will not be called to your pharmacy after hours, over the weekend, or holidays, please plan accordingly.
- Our office will complete routine checks of your opioid use. This may include requests to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), your pharmacy and other healthcare providers. This also may include pill counts and urine drug screens.

You may be discharged from the practice at the discretion of your physician or if you break any of the following rules:

- Take medication other than prescribed
- Get pain medication from another healthcare provider
- Make repeated calls for prescription requests
- Demonstrate rude behavior towards staff
- Use multiple pharmacies
- Use illegal drugs or drugs that are not prescribed to you
- Violate your controlled substance contract

The company does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in health programs and activities. We provide free services to help you communicate with us such as letters in other languages or large print. Or, you can ask for an interpreter. To ask for help, please call 888.255.2246.